

The Lord's Day

January 22, 2023 at 10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.*

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

Prelude

Blessed Quietness

W.S. Marshall

Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr. – Director of Music Ministries

Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Romans 8:15-17

RE Jeff Soule

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Invocation

Hymn No. 6

O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

Tidings

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker,
And all within me bless his holy name;
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies,
His pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

***Bless him forever, wondrous in might,
Bless him, his servants that in his will delight.***

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion,
Most slow to anger, plenteous in love;
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him,
Boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

His love is like a father's to his children,
Tender and kind to all who fear his name;
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty,
He knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty,
like tender grass that soon will disappear;
but evermore the love of God is changeless,
still shown to those who look to him in fear.

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever,
His kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion,
Bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

We embrace Christ's Call

Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, XXVI.1

All saints that are united to Jesus Christ their head, by His Spirit and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as to conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

Acknowledgement of God's Call (Responsive)

1 Peter 3:8-17

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

⁹ **Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.**

¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ **let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.**

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

¹⁴ **But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.**

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;**

yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, **so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Individual Confession of our Need

Assurance of God's Grace

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Hymn

Bought by the Blood

Highland Cathedral

Bought by the blood of heaven's perfect Lamb,
Freed from the bonds of earth by pierced hand,
He all my worthiness and I his sin,
Nailed to a cross by pow'r of God's love.

*Though his call take me far away,
Tho' it cost my name, comfort and gain,
I will serve him all my days,
My life now his, my Lord.*

Bold I approach my King's eternal throne,
Robed in a righteousness that's not my own.
Filled with his Spirit for a holy cause,
Bearing his cross by pow'r of God's love. (Refrain)

Lord, now grant me for the Gospel strife,
Grace for the morning and the fearful night,
Strengthen my zeal for my dear Savior's reign
Raising his cross by pow'r of God's love.

We acknowledge God's blessings

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

All Creation Sings

J.S. Bach
The Aisquith Choir

Sun, moon, earth and stars break forth in exultation! All creation sings the glorious resurrection! Christ is risen! Death is vanquished! Heav'n and earth repeat the glad refrain. Mountains, hills and dales ring out with acclamation! Oceans, lakes and vales all join the glad ovation. Christ is risen! Death is vanquished! All creation sings for joy: Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. O what glory far exceeding all that eye had yet perceived. Holiest hearts for ages pleading, never had such joy conceived.

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We hear God speak

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Sermon

“Gaining Christ”

Pastor Bell

Sermon Outline can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

We respond to God’s grace

Hymn No. 499

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Toplady

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg. 740**)

Danish

Postlude

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara Scott

Please be seated and quietly reflect upon the Lord’s grace during the Postlude.

Announcements

Today, we welcome our Pastor Emeritus, Robert Bell; as he will be opening God’s Word for us.

The Tiemann Special Music Fund is in need of donations for 2023. With Easter approaching quickly this year, we are in need of funds to be able to enhance our worship not only during the Easter season, but throughout the year.

Our Hand Bell Choir is seeking donations to the Tiemann Special Music Fund so that the bells can receive an overdue refurbishment.

A Congregational Meeting is hereby called for Sunday, February 5, 2023, to immediately follow the worship service. This is our annual stated meeting for the purposes of reviewing the annual reports and voting on officer candidate: Deacon Rick Willis. Please note that if you are responsible for writing one of the reports, they should be emailed to Pastor Ceselsky no later than Sunday, January 15.

We will be hosting a congregational breakfast on Sunday, February 5 at 9 a.m. Please plan to join us for a morning of fellowship before we gather for worship. If you are willing to help with this breakfast, please let Pastor Ceselsky know.

The Andrade Family will be hosting a luncheon following the worship service on Sunday, February 12 to thank everyone for their prayer and assistance to the family while Noe has been away.

2023 Photo Directory Updates are available in the narthex – these will easily insert into your previous version. If you notice any needed updates or need a new covered copy, please let Pastor Ceselsky know.

We are still collecting inkjet cartridges. There is a box in the kitchen for any donations.

Prayer Requests

1. Please be in prayer for the many members, family members and friends of the Aisquith Community who currently struggling various illnesses and other physical and emotional issues.

Weekly Calendar

TODAY:	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Room 17 Adults and Older Children – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Worship Service (Nursery is available in Room 25)
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir Practice – Room 28
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Women’s Bible Study – Rooms 15,16
Saturday	11:00 AM	Choir Practice – Room 27
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Room 17 Adults and Older Children – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Worship Service

Coming Soon

Sunday, February 5 – Congregational Breakfast and Meeting
Sunday, February 12 – Congregational Lunch hosted by the Andrade’s

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)

Deacons: Andrew Bell, Gus DeFord, & Ken Schumann (President)

Deaconesses: Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

Sermon Notes

Date: January 22, 2023

Text: Philippians 3:8-11

Sermon Title: "Gaining Christ"

Delivered By: Pastor Emeritus Robert Bell

Main Point 1: To grow in my walk with Christ will make me more secure in my faith.

Main Point 2: To grow in my walk with Christ will require more sacrifice in my life.

Main Point 3: To grow in my walk with Christ will result in more suffering in my life.

Main Point 4: To grow in my walk with Christ will result in more satisfaction in my life.