

## *The Lord's Day*

September 17, 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...*

*The greatest consequence of our certainty in the return of Christ should be that as we wait, we live as citizens of heaven.*

Robert Bell

Prelude

*Praise Ye The Triune God*

Frederick Fleming

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

*Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.*

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

RE Mark Werner

### **We praise our great God**

Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:19-22

<sup>19</sup> You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Invocation

Hymn No. 522

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

St. Petersburg

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

***On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.***

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul give way, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

### **We embrace Christ's Word**

**As we prepare our minds for action, and to be sober-minded, we set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, we must not be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance, but as he who called us is holy, we also must be holy in all our conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And since we call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, we must conduct ourselves with fear throughout the time of our exile.**

Individual Prayer of Confession

Assurance of God's Grace

1 Peter 1:18-21

<sup>18</sup> [We know] that [we] were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from [our] forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for [our] sake, <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that [our] faith and hope are in God.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 86

Since then we are delivered from our misery, merely of grace, through Christ, without any merit of ours, why must we still do good works?

**Because Christ, having redeemed and delivered us by His blood, also renews us by His Holy Spirit after His own image; that so we may testify, but the whole of our conduct, our gratitude to God for His blessings, and that He may be praised by us; also, that every one may be assured in himself of his faith by the fruits thereof; and that by our godly conversation others may be gained to Christ.**

Hymn No. 355

*We Are God's People*

Symphony

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand;  
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For we have known it, the love of God out-poured;  
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv'n;  
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one;  
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
We die alone for on its own each member loses fire;  
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

**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

*O For A Thousand Tongues*

Charles Wesley  
The Aisquith Choir

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace. My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread  
thro' all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That  
bids our sorrows cease; 'Tis music in the sinner's ears; 'Tis life, and health, and peace. He breaks  
the pow'r of cancelled sin; He sets the pris'ner free. His blood can make the foulest clean; his  
blood availed for me. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy. Oh, for a thousand tongues to  
sing My great Redeemer's praise.

*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 are nourished by God's Word**

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:20-21

Pew Bible pg. 982

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who  
will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to  
subject all things to himself.

Sermon

"A Certain Hope"

Pastor Emeritus, Robert Bell

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

**We respond to God's grace**

Hymn No. 354

*Jesus Christ, Our Sure Foundation*

Oakbrook

Jesus Christ, our sure foundation, he whose purpose stays the same,  
Building for himself a nation, giving those he calls his name.  
Praise we now and ever more, Jesus we adore!  
God has giv'n to us salvation, Jesus Christ has borne our blame.

Shepherd, Guardian, he who teaches, on whose grace the church depends,  
Tending it through hist'ry's reaches, and will keep it to the end.

Praise we now and ever more, Jesus we adore!  
He who from the first did seek us, Savior, Ruler, Guide and Friend.

Jesus, come, your kingdom bringing, how we long to see its sight!  
Ev'ry saint, Christ's praises singing, stands before th' eternal Light.  
Praise we now and ever more, Jesus we adore!  
Exaltation ever ringing, Christ, our King, return in might.

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

Danish

Postlude

*Fugue in G- Minor*

J. S. Bach

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

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### **Announcements**

**We welcome** our Pastor Emeritus, Robert bell, as he brings the Word of God to us this morning.

**Sunday School for all ages Resumes** next Sunday morning at 9 AM. Adults will pick up on the study of the Lord's amazing work in our salvation.

**We are in need of donations to the Facilities Fund and the Special Music Fund.** As we have begun construction of the new ADA compliant (handicapped) bathroom at the back of room 11, and as we begin to plan for music for the Christmas season, these two funds are in need of donations. If you feel so led, please use the pink envelopes in the pews and mark them accordingly.

**Those who ordered Bible Study Guides** will find the books labeled by name in the narthex. If you have not paid for the study guide, you are asked to pay John or Julie Ceselsky the \$9.00 directly for the books as soon as possible.

### **Prayer Requests**

1. Please be in prayer for the entire Wenger family and the members and leadership of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Gambrills, Maryland as they mourn the death of Pastor Thomas Wenger, Jr.
2. Please continue be in prayer for Laura Newman as she recovers from hip replacement surgery on Tuesday. Please pray for a quick and full recovery.
3. Please be in prayer for Aisquith members, family members and friends of the Aisquith Community who are currently struggling with various illnesses and other physical and emotional issues.

### **Weekly Calendar**

|             |          |   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| TODAY:      | 10:30 AM | Worship Service<br>(Nursery available in Room 25) |
| Monday      | 6:15 PM  | Handbell Choir Practice – Room 28                 |
| Saturday    | 10:00 AM | Choir Practice – Room 27                          |
| NEXT Sunday | 9:00 AM  | Sunday School Resumes                             |

Adults – Room 11  
Young Children – Room 17  
10:30 AM Lord's Day Worship Service

**Coming Soon**

Wednesday, September 27 – Men's & Women's Bible Studies resume.  
Wednesday, October 11 – Soup, Salad & Sweets Dinner with  
Dal & Beth Stanton (MTW missionaries to the Ukraine)

**Church Officers**

**Ruling Elders:** Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)

**Deacons:** Andrew Bell (on sabbatical), Gus DeFord, Ken Schumann (President), and Rick Willis

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

**Sermon Notes**

Date: September 17, 2023

Text: Philippians 3:20-21

Sermon Title: "A Certain Hope"

Delivered By: Pastor Emeritus, Robert Bell

Proposition: The expectation of the Lord's personal and imminent return gives the Christian joy and power.

Main Point 1: The Christian's Citizenship

Main Point 2: The Christian's Conduct

Main Point 3: The Christian's Certainty