

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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...

Would God permit those to perish for whom he had wrought so signal a deliverance, and for whose sake he sacrificed the hosts of Egypt? Yet their carcasses were strewed across the wilderness. It is not enough, therefore, to be the recipients of extraordinary favors; it is not enough to begin well. It is only by constant self-denial and vigilance, that the promised reward can be obtained.

Charles Hodge

Prelude

What Child Is This?

Greensleeves

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

Psalms 18:28-30

²⁸ For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
²⁹ For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
³⁰ This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Invocation

Hymn No. 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of hea'v above;
glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

We embrace Christ's Word

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 155

How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

Acknowledgment of God's Sovereign Choice (Responsive)

Romans 9:1-29

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying;

my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring,
but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God,
but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,

¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad
in order that God's purpose of election might continue,
not because of works but because of him who calls

¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part?

By no means!

¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up,

that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

¹⁹ **You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”**

²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?

Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”

²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

²² **What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

²⁴ **even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?**

²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea,

“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’
and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”

²⁶ **“And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’**
there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

²⁷ **And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel:**

“Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea,
only a remnant of them will be saved,

²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”

²⁹ **And as Isaiah predicted,**

“If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”

Individual Acknowledgment of what we Deserve

Assurance of Salvation

Romans 10:11-13

¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Hymn No. 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Thirsting

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ‘neath their sorrow’s load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever springing gladness.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

We acknowledge God's blessings

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

RE Jeff Soule

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Ding-Dong! Merrily on High

Charles Wood
The Aisquith Choir

Ding-dong! merrily on high In heav'n the bells are ringing; Ding-dong! Verily the sky Is riv'n
with Angel singing: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E'en so, here below, below Let steeple bells be
swungen, and io, io, io, By priest and people sung. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you,
dutifully prime Your Mat – in chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime Your Evetime Song,
ye singers: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

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

1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Pew Bible pg. 957

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all
passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate
the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual
Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was
not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

Sermon

"Common to All"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 55

To God Be the Glory

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that we may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offended who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

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

Danish

Postlude

O Holy Night

Adams

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

Announcements

This Year's Christmas Offering will again go to the Ministerial Relief Fund of the PCA. This fund is used to help retired pastors and widows of pastors who struggle with economic hardship. Please give generously as you are able. You can use your "Christmas Offering" envelope or use one of the pink envelopes in the pew racks (please label them for the Christmas Offering).

Christmas Cards may be placed in the box in the narthex. Please put the cards **only** in the box. And then look each week for your cards, which will be sorted alphabetically, on the back table. (Please do not include cards for folks who do not regularly attend worship at Aisquith.)

We will be doing a video conference with John & Gwen Cicone on NEXT Sunday at 9:00 AM in room 11 – please plan to join us.

The Men's and Women's Bible Studies will be taking a break after their Christmas gatherings this week. The studies will resume on January 10 with 2 weeks remaining in the current study on James. Beginning on January 24, we will start a new study on the three epistles of John. If you would like to participate, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to order the study guides. Guides are \$10 each and money should be given directly to John or Julie. The deadline to order the study guides is December 31.

Winter Weather Plans. As we enter now into Winter, here's how we will inform you of any changes to our Lord's Day schedule (or Bible Studies) if there is inclement weather. A statement will be posted on the front page of our website, we will send out a blast email (you can sign up for our emails on the front page of the website), and we will send out a text alert (if you want to sign up for text alerts please let Pastor Ceselsky know). This will all be done prior to 8 AM.

Prayer Requests

1. Please be in prayer for Wanda Wilson as struggles with her worsening condition and new living arrangements. Pray as well for Ken as he adjusts to being without her.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Sylvia Barfield as she continues to recover from surgery to deal with the cancer on her lung.
3. Please continue in prayer for Anna Graham as she deals with sever back pain and tries to work with various doctors to deal with the issue.
4. Please continue in prayer for Libby Soule as she continues to struggle with the effect of FND.
5. 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:	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Adults – Room 11 Young children – Room 17
	10:30 AM	Worship Service (Nursery available in Room 25)
Monday	6:15 PM	Handbell Choir Practice – Room 28
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Joint Board Meeting of the Session and Deacons – Room 38
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Women’s Bible Study Christmas Gathering
	6:30 PM	Men’s Bible Study Christmas Dinner
Saturday	10:00 AM	Choir Practice – Room 27
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Video conference call with John & Gwen Cicone – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord’s Day Worship Service (Third Sunday of Advent)

Coming Soon

Sunday, December 24 – 7 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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: December 10, 2023

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Sermon Title: “Common to All”

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: There is a common bond between believers of all time.

Main Point 1: Our common, authoritative Word.

Main Point 2: Our common familial relationship. (v. 1)

Point 1: Brothers

Point 2: Fathers.

Main Point 3: God's common purpose for His special revelation. (v. 6)

Main Point 4: God's common salvation. (v. 4)

For the Bible Study Review the questions and notes on pgs. 69-77