

The Lord's Day

December 31, 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...

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

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

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Invocation

Hymn No. 199

See, amid the Winter's Snow

See Amid The Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say—what’s your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing, ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Savior’s birth.”

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy child, by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility.

We embrace Christ’s Word

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 90

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
² **Before the mountains were brought forth, ever you had formed the earth and the world,**
From everlasting to everlasting you are God.
³ **You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”**
⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.
⁵ **You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:**
⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
⁷ **For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.**
⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
⁹ **For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**
¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;
Yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?
¹² **So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**
¹³ Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
¹⁵ **Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.**
¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.
¹⁷ **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Corporate Prayer of Acknowledgement

based upon Psalm 6

Heavenly Father, I confess that I am weary; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my trials. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long? But I

**know that you, O Lord have heard the sound of my weeping. The Lord has heard my plea;
the Lord accepts my prayer.**

Assurance of God's Grace

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Hymn No. 200

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

Intermezzo (from: Cavalleria Rusticana)

Mascagni

Duet: Dr. Rodney D. Allen, Violin and Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr., Organ

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

Deuteronomy 2:7

Pew Bible pg. 146

For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.

Sermon

“The LORD Bless You ...”

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 30

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll'wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

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

Danish

Postlude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

William Runyan, arr. - Jimmy Green

Duet: Dr. Rodney D. Allen, Violin and Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr., Organ

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

Announcements

We welcome Dr. Rodney D. Allen and thank him for his participation in our worship service this morning. Dr. Allen served as a music educator for the Baltimore City Schools, is a veteran of the 287th Army Band and Orchestra, and has performed with many groups.

Please pick up your Christmas Cards and 2024 giving envelopes from the table in the narthex.

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).

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 TODAY!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations next Sunday following the worship service. If you can stay to help, that would be greatly appreciated.

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.

Annual Reports are due to Pastor Ceselsky no later than Sunday, January 21.

Prayer Requests

1. Please be in prayer for Angela Andrade's cousin, Mrs. Esi Bamberg and her two children, as they mourn the sudden loss of Esi's husband, Ado, on Christmas morning.
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 recovers from her outpatient surgery on Friday. Pray as well as she will have a number of follow-up procedures to deal with other aspects of the issue she is dealing with.
4. 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 (Nursery available in Room 25)
	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday	10:00 AM	Choir Practice – Room 27
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School
		Adults – Room 11
		Children – Room 17
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service with The Lord's Supper
	12:00 PM	Take down Christmas Decorations

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 31, 2023

Text: Deuteronomy 2:7

Sermon Title: "The LORD Bless You ..."

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: The Lord has blessed you, and He will continue to bless you.

Main Point 1: For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the works of your hands.

Point 1: The LORD, your God.

Point 2: The LORD your God has blessed you.

Point 3: The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands.

Main Point 2: He knows your going through this great wilderness.

Point 1: Omnisciently

Point 2: Providentially

Point 3: Experientially

Main Point 3: The LORD your God has been with you.

Point 1: The LORD is with you.

Point 2: The LORD our God is within us.

Main Point 4: You have lacked nothing.

Point 1: Past

Point 2: Present

Point 3: Future