

The Lord's Day

February 18, 2024 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...

When we are certain from the word of the Lord that he approves of what we do, we should have ease and tranquility in our minds. John Calvin

Prelude *When Morning Gilds The Skies* (Tune: Laudes Domini) Dan Richards
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 (Responsive)

Psalms 24:1-6

- ¹ The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
² for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
³ Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
**who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**
⁵ He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Invocation

Hymn No. 98

Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven—
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

We embrace Christ's Word

Confession of What Defiles (Unison)

Mark 7:15,18b-23

¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. ^{18b} Whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled? ([In this, Jesus] declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

Individual Confession of Our Defilement

Our Call to Serve Our Brothers in Christ (Responsive)

Romans 14:13-23

¹³ Let us not pass judgment on one another any longer,
But rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.
¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself,
But it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.
¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love.
By what [we] eat, [we must] not destroy the one for whom Christ died.
¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.
¹⁷ **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.
¹⁹ **So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.**
²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.
Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.
²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.
²² **The faith that [we] have, [we must] keep between [ourselves] and God.**
Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.
²³ **But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats,**
Because the eating is not from faith.
For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

The Stumbling Block of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
 "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Hymn

Beneath the Cross

Getty

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Harry Rowe Shelley
The Aisquith Choir

The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransom'd soul He leadeth, And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish, oft I stray'd,

But yet in love He sought me, And on His shoulder gently laid, And home rejoicing brought me.
Perverse and foolish, oft I stray'd, But yet in love He sought me, And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With Thee, dear Lord, beside
me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy Cross before to guide me. Thou spread'st a table in
my sight, Thy unction grace bestoweth, and O the transport of delight, with which my cup
o'erfloweth. And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd
may I sing Thy praises Within thy house forever! And so through all the length of days, Thy
goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever. Amen.

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 10:25-30

Pew Bible pg. 958

²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." ²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹ I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

Sermon

"Ignorance is Bliss"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 434

Lord, Thou Lov'st the Cheerful Giver

Beecher

Lord, thou lov'st the cheerful giver, who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river that refreshes all the land.
Grant us then the grace of giving with a spirit large and free,
That our life and all our living we may consecrate to thee.

We are thine, thy mercy sought us, found us in death's dreadful way,
To the fold in safety brought us, nevermore from thee to stray.
Thine own life thou freely gavest as an offering on the cross
For each sinner whom thou savest from eternal shame and loss.

Blest by thee with gifts and graces, may we heed thy church's call;
Gladly in all times and places give to thee who givest all.
Thou hast bought us, and no longer can we claim to be our own;
Ever free and ever stronger, we shall serve thee, Lord, alone.

Savior, thou hast freely given all the blessings we enjoy,
Earthly store and bread of heaven, love and peace without alloy;
Humbly now we bow before thee, and our all to thee resign;
For the kingdom, pow'r, and glory, are, O Lord, forever thine.

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

Danish

Postlude

Wayfaring Stranger

Southern American Hymn
Soloist: RE Jeff Soule, Bass

I am a poor wayfaring stranger while traveling through this world of woe,
Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to see my Father I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me, I know my way is rough and steep;
But golden fields lie out before me where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.
I'm going there to see my mother, She said she'd meet me when I come;
I'm only going over Jordan I'm only going over home.

I'll soon be free from every trial, My body sleep in the churchyard;
I'll drop the cross of self denial and enter on my great reward.
I'm going there to see my Savior, To sing His praise forevermore;
I'm only going over Jordan I'm only going over home.

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

Announcements

Tulips for Easter. If you would like to order tulips for Easter, the book is in the back where you can sign up. (You can also email Pastor Ceselsky.) The cost is \$10 per plant (please use a pink envelope and label the envelope for "Flowers.") The deadline to order tulips is March 10.

An updated photo-directory is coming. If you need information added, updated, or would like to change your picture in the directory, please speak to Pastor Ceselsky today.

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 continue to be in prayer for Dr. Dean's great-grandson, Kari Dean as he is in the hospital having had an acute asthma attack.

2. Please be in prayer for Joyce Donohue as she recovers from contracting both Covid and the flu – she is doing much better than earlier in the week. Pray as well for her caregiver, Jaye, who also contacted Covid and is recovering.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Ralph Clark as he recovers from surgery on his hip. Please pray as well for John Clark's mother as she deals with a number of health issues and for the family as they care for her.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Karen Wallace as she recovers from surgery. Pray we well for her mother, Shirley Dissinger as she was moved this past week from the Assisted Living facility at Oakcrest to their Skilled Nursing Center.
5. Please continue to be in prayer for Tom Kilker as his metastasized cancer continues to take a toll on his body.
6. Please continue to be in prayer for Libby Soule as she struggles with the limitations and difficulties related to her FND.
7. Please continue in prayer for Anna Graham as she continues to recover from the procedure to deal with a pinched nerve affecting her leg. Pray that this brings relief and that she will be able to have another procedure later this month to deal with another of her back issues.
8. 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 Adults – Room 11 Children – Room 17
	10:30 AM	Worship Service (Nursery available in Room 25)
Tuesday	6:15 PM	Handbell Choir Practice – Room 28
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study – Room 15
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Room 15
For the Bible Study Review the questions and notes on pgs. 18-32		
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

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)

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

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

Sermon Notes

Date: February 18, 2024
Text: 1 Corinthians 10:25-30
Sermon Title: "Ignorance is Bliss"
Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: We must give thanks for all of God's blessings.

Main Point 1: Why may we partake? (v. 26)

Main Point 2: When may we partake?

Point 1: The meat markets. (v. 25)

Point 2: A guest. (v. 27)

Point 3: The Jews.

Main Point 3: When must we abstain? (vv. 28-29)

Point 1: Injures the weaker believer.

Point 2: Inhibits the preaching of the Gospel.