

The Lord's Day

June 16, 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...

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!" Romans 8:15

Prelude

I Surrender All

Franklyn Ritter

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 Praise

Psalms 89:26

You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.

Invocation

Hymn No. 87

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Crimond

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

We embrace Christ's Word

The Command of God

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Corporate Confession of Sin (Responsive)

Ephesians 5:3-6

³ Sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

⁴ **Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.**

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ **Let no one deceive [us] with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

Individual Confession of Sin

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

Hymn No. 469

How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

St. Columba

How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?

“Why was I made to hear your voice,
and enter while there’s room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;

send your victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing your redeeming grace.

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

Lift Thine Eyes (from: Elijah)

Mendelssohn

Trio: Ms. Jean Evans, Mrs. Sandy Jones, Mrs. Fran Oswinkle

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh, whence cometh, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy Keeper will never slumber, never, will never slumber, never slumber. Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh, whence cometh, whence cometh help, whence cometh, whence cometh, whence cometh help.

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

Luke 15:11-32

Pew Bible pg. 874

¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and

celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Sermon

"Shared Joy in Heaven"

Rev. Stuart Jones, OPC

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

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 460

Amazing Grace!

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

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

Danish

Postlude

In the Garden

arr. Dan Miller

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

Announcements

We welcome Rev. Stuart Jones as he brings the Word of God to us this Lord's Day.

Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers and grandfathers in the congregation.

Keith and Kristyn Getty will be doing a concert in Medford, New Jersey (about 1.5 hours from the church) on October 24 from 7 – 9:30 PM. If you would like to join with a group going to the concert, please contact Pastor Ceselsky no later than TODAY!. The cost for the event is \$30 per person and includes roundtrip transportation from the church.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Vic Williams (Jeanne's husband). Vic has been accepted into Gilcrest's home hospice care. Pray for him and Jeanne as they adapt to this new way of life.
2. 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)
Saturday	10:00 AM	Choir Practice – Room 27
	12:00 PM	Handbell Choir Practice – Room 28
NEXT Sunday	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: June 16, 2024

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon Title: "Shared Joy in Heaven"

Delivered By: Reverend Stuart Jones

Main Point 1: The Challenge of Exemplary Fathers.

Main Point 2: "Father" is not some Optional Metaphor for God in the Life of a Christian.

Main Point 3: The Parable is a Story of Joyful Communion with God in Heaven.

Main Point 4: Grace and the "Appearance" of Absurd Leniency and Weakness.