

The Lord's Day

December 8, 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...

Christianity were a foolish profession if it proposed no hopes beyond this life, required men to risk all the blessings and comforts of this life, and to face and endure all the evils of it, without any future prospects.

Matthew Henry

Prelude

He Shall Feed His Flock (From - The Messiah) – G.F. Handel
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

Hebrews 6:19-20

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Invocation

Hymn No. 230

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

French Carol

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

We embrace Christ's Word

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 165

What is baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ has ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.

Our Confession of our Sinfulness

Romans 7:15-20 (adapted)

Holy Father, I confess that I often do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want to do – the good that pleases you. But I do the very things which I hate. Therefore, I acknowledge that sin dwells within me. I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. I have the desire to do what is right, but I do not have the ability to carry it out. Rather I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Holy Father, I give thanks to you for the grace and mercy that you have bestowed upon me in your beloved Son. Amen.

Individual Confession of Sin

Our Assurance in Christ (Responsive)

Colossians 2:8-15

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

⁹ **For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,**

¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

¹¹ **In him also [we] were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,**

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ **And [we], who were dead in [our] trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,**

¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.

This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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 a way;
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 Mark Werner

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Eternal Life

Olive Dungan
The Aisquith Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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 15:29-32

Pew Bible pg. 961

²⁹ Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? ³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

Sermon

"An Anchored Faith"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

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

Danish

Postlude

Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

(tune: Wachet auf) – J.S. Bach

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

Announcements

Our deposit from October 27 has finally posted. If you gave a check that Sunday that had not cleared through your bank, please verify that this has been done. If your check still has not cleared your bank, please let Pastor Ceselsky know a.s.a.p.

Giving Envelopes for 2025 are in the narthex (they are arranged alphabetically). If you do not currently have envelopes but would like to have them for the future, please let Pastor Ceselsky know.

Our Christmas Offering this year will be made to the PCA's Ministerial Relief Fund. This fund is used to help retired pastors and missionaries and their widows when they face financial difficulties.

The Christmas Card box is on the table in the narthex. Please put any cards you bring in **ONLY** into the box. (Please only put cards in for people who actually attend worship at Aisquith.) Cards will be sorted the following week and placed alphabetically on the table. Please also check each week and pick up your cards.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Dr. Dean as he recovers from a second facial surgery this past week.

2. Please continue to be in prayer for Mary Lou Wickham as she will be having surgery on her back on December 10.
3. Please continue be in prayer for Diane Eisenmeier's sister, Kathie, as she had surgery this week to remove a tumor from the base of her skull.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Thomas Oswinkle, son of Brian and Faith Oswinkle and grandson of George and Fran Oswinkle. Thomas is home but still needs breathing assistance.
5. Please continue to be in prayer for the Clark family as Ralph is currently under the care of home hospice. Pray as well for the family as they grieve the coming absence of one so loved.
6. Please continue to be in prayer for Joyce Donohue as she recovers/rehabs from another recent fall.
7. 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 Children – Rooms 16 & 17 Adults – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Room 27
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Session Meeting – Room 38
Wednesday	12:00 PM	Women's Bible Study Christmas Luncheon – The Bowman Restaurant
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Rooms 15 & 16 (Please prepare pages 75-80)
NEXT Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages Children – Rooms 16 & 17 Adults – Room 11
	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Room 27

Coming Soon

Christmas Eve Worship Service – Tuesday, December 24 – 6:15 PM

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: December 8, 2024

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:29-32

Sermon Title: "An Anchored Faith"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: The resurrection anchors our Christian faith.

Main Point 1: If there is no resurrection, there is no point to our religious practice.

Point 1: The Corinthian practice.

Point 2: Christian baptism pictures resurrection.

Main Point 2: If there is no resurrection, there is no point to our Christian profession.

Point 1: The risk of Christian profession.

Point 2: The reward of Christian profession.

Main Point 3: If there is no resurrection, there is no point to our moral faithfulness.

Point 1: Human nature prefers hedonism.

Point 2: Moral faithfulness is a constant battle.