

# *The Lord's Day*

December 22, 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...*

*Jesus Messiah is God incarnate, whose miraculous conception and origin are only explained through the work of  
God the Holy Spirit.*

Michael Wilkins

Prelude

*In The Bleak Mid-Winter*

Christina Rossetti

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

Psalm 46:10-11

<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Invocation

Hymn No. 203

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

***Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”***

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

**We embrace Christ's Word**

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
Of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
Begotten of the Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
Very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
By whom all things were made;  
Who for us and for our salvation  
Came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
And was made man;  
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
And ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets;  
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Our Faith in the Incarnation (Responsive)

John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> **He was in the beginning with God.**

<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

<sup>4</sup> **In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup> **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

<sup>11</sup> **He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

<sup>13</sup> **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

Our Calling to Bear Witness to Christ

John 15:26-27

**<sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”**

Hymn of Invitation – No. 201

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**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

*Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place*

Gordon Young  
The Aisquith Choir

Let heav’nly music fill this place and all the harmonies of heav’n be heard; Let one grand song of praise of praise resound, one alleluia! Let mighty organs peal and roll and choirs invisible be heard; Let anthem grand now thrill my soul, one alleluia! O may we join the heav’nly choir that through the ages will sing on; In praise to Father and to Son, one alleluia! One alleluia!

*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

Isaiah 7:10-14

Pew Bible pg. 572

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible pg. 807

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

John 14:16-17

Pew Bible pg. 901

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Sermon

"God is With Us"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

**We respond to God's grace**

Hymn No. 194

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.

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

Danish

Postlude

*What Child Is This*

(Tune – Greensleeves) William C. Dix

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

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### **Announcements**

**Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service** on Tuesday evening. The music will begin at 6:15 PM. Please invite others to join us on this joyous occasion.

**Donations are needed** to the Music Fund (we have a wonderful program planned for Christmas), the Help Fund, and the Facilities Fund.

**Giving Envelopes for 2025** are in the narthex (with your Christmas cards). 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 be in prayer for Debbie DeFord's son-in-law, Mike (Heather's husband) as he recovers from emergency open heart surgery this past week.
2. Please be in prayer for Diane Eisenmeier's nearly 101-year-old mother as she recovers from surgery to repair a broken ankle and femur from a recent fall.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Buckey Pearre as he recovers in the hospital from a procedure on Thursday to help with his breathing difficulties.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Mary Lou Wickham as she recovers from having surgery on her back this week.
5. Please continue to be in prayer for the Clark family as they grieve Ralph's passing.

6. Please continue to be in prayer for Joyce Donohue as she 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<br>Children – Rooms 16 & 17<br>Adults – Room 11 |
|             | 10:30 AM | Lord's Day Worship Service                                                 |
|             | 2:00 PM  | Musician & Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary                                     |
| Tuesday     | 6:15 PM  | Christmas Eve Worship Service                                              |
| 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: December 22, 2024

Text: Isaiah 7:10-14, Matthew 1:18-25, John 14:16-17

Sermon Title: "God is With Us"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: God is with us.

Main Point 1: The prophecy of "God with us." (Isaiah 7:10-14)

Point 1: Historical Context.

Point 2: Miraculous Promise.

Main Point 2: The fulfillment of "God with us." (Matthew 1:18-25)

Point 1: Historical Context.

Point 2: Gracious Reality.

Main Point 3: Our experience of “God with us.” (John 14:16-17)

Point 1: Historical Context.

Point 2: Internal Presence.