

The Lord's Day

July 6, 2025 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...

In ethnic religions, ritual was to be performed exactly according to the custom in order to be efficacious; in worship of the living God, who forgives sin and is merciful, people took liberties and treated the offering of the lord with contempt. This was inexcusable.

Joyce Baldwin

Prelude

Near The Cross

Fanny Crosby

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

Psalms 54:4-7

⁴ Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵ He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

⁶ With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

⁷ For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Invocation

Hymn No. 252

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count by loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

We embrace Christ through His Word

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalms 50

¹ The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

⁴ **He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

⁵ “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

⁶ **The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!**

⁷ “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

⁸ **Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

¹⁰ **For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² **“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.**

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,**

¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

¹⁶ **But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?**

¹⁷ For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.

¹⁸ **If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.**

¹⁹ “You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.

²⁰ **You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.**

²¹ These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

²² **“Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!**

²³ The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

Individual Confession of Sin

Our Embracing of Christ's Sacrifice (Responsive)

Hebrews 10:1-18

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?

³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Our Assurance in Christ

Hebrews 10:19-23

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hymn No. 305

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Lenox

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede,
His all redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;
His blood atoned for ev’ry race,
His blood atoned for ev’ry race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;

They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

My God is reconciled; his pard’ning voice I hear;
He owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;
With confidence I now draw nigh,
with confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father!” cry.

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

Air (from: Suite in D)

J.S. Bach

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 and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 2:12-17

Pew Bible pg. 226

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. ¹³ The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, ¹⁴ and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. ¹⁵ Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw.” ¹⁶ And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.” ¹⁷ Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

Sermon

“Zero Shades of Grey”

Pastor Ceselsky

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

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper

We respond to God’s Grace

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

O to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your blood stained brow.

Refrain

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life –
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry.

Refrain

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

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

Danish

Postlude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

(St. Christopher) Frederick C. Maker

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

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Today (July 6) is Maddox Bell's birthday; Tuesday (July 8) is Lieseli Cabell's and John Clark's birthdays, as well as Stuart & Sandy Jones' anniversary; and next Sunday (July 13) is John & Gwen Cicone's anniversary and George Johnson's birthday.

Prayer Requests

1. Please be in prayer for the Schaller (Leubecker and Townsend) family as they continue to mourn John's passing. John was buried in a family burial this past week and we will have a memorial service in the coming weeks.
2. We give thank that George Johnson's nephew, Jesse, has completed his time of service in the Israeli Defense Force. He spent a great deal of time in the engagements in Gaza. We are thankful for the Lord's protection and for the fact that Jesse is now engaged to be married.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Debbie DeFord as she recovers from shoulder surgery this past week. Please pray for a quick and full recovery.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Drew Calhoun, Mark Fisher's stepfather, who has been diagnosed with Metastatic cancer. Please pray for comfort and for wisdom for those who will be caring for him.
5. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Steve & Amy Robertson – please pray for Steve and Amy as they minister throughout South America and are based in Columbia which has recently seen an increase in instability and violence. Steve and Amy were also greatly encouraged by time recently spent in Guadalajara, Mexico as they returned to the birthplace of their missionary labors.
6. 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 Lord's Day Worship Service with The Lord's Supper
NEXT Sunday 10:30 AM Lord's Day Worship Service

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: Riley B. Franklin, Jeff Soule & Mark Werner (Clerk)

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

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

Sermon Notes

Date: July 6, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-17

Sermon Title: "Zero Shades of Grey"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: We belong either to the LORD, or, we belong to Satan.

Main Point 1: Our contrasting lineage. (v. 12a)

Point 1: Eli's sons.

Point 2: Hannah.

Main Point 2: Our contrasting knowledge. (v. 12b)

Point 1: Eli's sons.

Point 2: Samuel.

Main Point 3: Our contrasting offering. (vv. 13-17)

Point 1: The Law's prescription.

Point 2: The Priest's practice.

Point 3: The LORD's provision.