

The Lord's Day

November 16, 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...

Saul is introduced as a donkey wrangler sent in search of donkeys that had strayed from home – perhaps symbolizing Saul and the rebellious people who had asked for a king (cf. Isa. 1:3). David would be introduced as a shepherd caring for his father's flock (16:11-13) and later pictured as the shepherd over the Lord's flock,

NIV Study Bible

Prelude

Meditation

Michael Ryan

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

Isaiah 26:12-13

¹² O Lord, you will ordain peace for us,
for you have indeed done for us all our works.

¹³ O Lord our God,
other lords besides you have ruled over us,
but your name alone we bring to remembrance.

Invocation

Hymn No. 363

We Gather Together

Kremser

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender will be.
Let thy congregation endure thro' tribulation:

Thy name be ever prais'd! O Lord, make us free!

We embrace Christ through His Word

Our Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith V.1

God, the great Creator of all things, does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

Our Spiritual Calling (Responsive)

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³ **For if [we] live according to the flesh [we] will die, but if by the Spirit [we] put to death the deeds of the body, [we] will live.**

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

¹⁵ **For [we] did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but [we] have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”**

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—

heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Our Present Suffering (Responsive)

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ **For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.**

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, **in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

²³ **And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵ **But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

God's Present Promise

Romans 8:26-28

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

God's Future Provision

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Hymn No. 108

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Was Gott Tut

Whate'er my God ordains is right: his holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er he doth, and follow where he guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road, he holds me that I shall not fall:
Wherefore to him I leave my all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right: he never will deceive me;
He leads me by the proper path; I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he hath sent; his hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait his day.

Whate'er my God ordains is right: though now this cup, in drinking,
May bitter seem to my faint heart, I take it, all unshrinking.
My God is true; each morn anew sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
And pain and sorrow shall depart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right: here shall my stand by taken;
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet am I not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there; he holds me that I shall not fall:
And so to him I leave it all.

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Graham Godfrey
The Aisquith Choir

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. Be Thou my Wisdom, O Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I in Thee one. High King of Heaven, the victory won, My I reach heaven's joys - O bright heaven's Sun; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

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 Samuel 9:1-10

Pew Bible pg. 231

¹ There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. ² And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

³ Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." ⁴ And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

⁵ When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us." ⁶ But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go." ⁷ Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" ⁸ The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." ⁹ (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) ¹⁰ And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

Sermon

"Seeking Donkeys"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn No. 9(HMR)

Alive in Christ

Sola Gratia

I once was rebellious, corrupted by sin, pursuing the devil's dark path,
Oblivious, dead to the state I was in, an object of God's dreadful wrath.

But God who is rich in compassion and love, not leaving my soul to the grave,
Has given me life; born again from above, by God's sovereign grace I've been saved.

God lifted me up to the heavenly realms where seated with Christ I am free;
In ages to come he will show me more grace—so great is his kindness to me.

Since grace is the source of the life that is mine—and faith is a gift from on high—
I'll boast in my Savior, all merit decline, and glorify God 'til I die.

Yet now I am living with work to be done for I am God's workmanship too,
Created in Christ with a race to be run, which God has ordained me to do.

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

Danish

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

Announcements

Our Thanksgiving Offering this year will go to Mission Possible, a faith-based homeless shelter in Baltimore City. RE Riley Franklin has been actively serving in this ministry for several years. You can use your Thanksgiving envelope or one of the pink pew envelopes labeled for "Thanksgiving Offering."

Operation Christmas Child Boxes are available in the narthex. If you would like to fill a box (or boxes) this year, please return them to the church no later than NEXT Sunday, November 23.

Poinsettias for Christmas may be ordered by signing up in the book in the narthex. The cost is \$10 for each plant and the funds should be placed in a pink envelope and labeled "flowers" and placed in the offering. The deadline to sign up for the poinsettias is Sunday, December 7.

Donations for the Roof repair can be made through the ARC Fund. Please use a pink envelope and label it "ARC" or "Roof."

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Pastor Ceselsky as he recovers from nerve surgery on his right leg and foot. Pray as well for Julie as she takes on the responsibilities of caring for and driving John.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Liam Bell as he has injured his foot as he and his family seek clarity to the extent and treatment for his injured foot.
3. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: John & Gwen Cicone – Rafiki Foundation Tanzania – Please pray for John & Gwen as things settle down in Tanzania following strife surrounding recent elections. Pray for them as they continue to lead the school and as they prepare to come home over the holidays this year.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for those in our congregation who have on-going health concerns: Yoshio Amano (Yuki fisher's father), Drew Calhoun (Mark Fisher's father), Joyce Donohue, Evelyn King, Libby Soule, Robert Willis (Rick's brother) & Ken Wilson.
5. 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 – Rooms 26-27
	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
Tuesday:		

	7:00 PM	Session Meeting – John’s Office
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Women’s Bible Study – Rooms 15-16
		(Please prepare pages 49-54 of the Chronological Guide to the Bible)
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 – Rooms 26-27

Coming Soon

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, November 26 – 7 PM

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: November 16, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 9:1-10

Sermon Title: “Seeking Donkeys”

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: God is providentially working in every moment of our lives.

Main Point 1: Saul’s worldly status. (vv. 1-2)

Point 1: Saul’s father.

Point 2: Saul’s name.

Point 3: Saul’s appearance.

Main Point 2: Saul’s apparent problem. (vv. 3-5a)

Main Point 3: Saul’s spiritual weakness (vv. 5b-10)

Point 1: Follower.

Point 2: Ignorant.