

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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...

The act of kingmaking was soteriological. Saul is to save. The act is also ecclesiological. It is for the sake of the community. Walter Brueggemann

Prelude *Es Ist Ein Ros' Estsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)* M. Praetorius
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 61:1-4

¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Invocation

Hymn No. 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints below the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

We embrace Christ through His Word

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalms 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,**
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- ⁵ **Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
- ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- ⁷ **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹ **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ **Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- ¹³ **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**
- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- ¹⁹ **then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

We Confess Our Sinfulness

Our Assurance of Salvation (Responsive)

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

⁴ **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.**

In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

⁶ **to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

⁸ **which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight**

⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

¹⁰ **as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.**

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

¹² **so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.**

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

¹⁴ **who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it to the praise of his glory.**

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 53

What do you believe concerning the Holy Ghost?

First, that He is true and coeternal God with the Father and the Son; secondly, that He is also given me, to make me by a true faith, partaker of Christ and all His benefits, that He may comfort me and abide with me for ever.

Hymn No. 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee, his chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

We acknowledge God's blessings

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst
The Aisquith Choir

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end; we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. Alleluia. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether out tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still; to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. 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 and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 10:1b-8

Pew Bible pg. 232

^{1b} And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage. ² When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' ³ Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. ⁴ And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. ⁵ After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. ⁶ Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. ⁷ Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. ⁸ Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

Sermon

"Do What Your Hand Finds To Do"

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

Hymn

Holy Spirit

Getty

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul;
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord, to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

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

Danish

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

John Mason Neal

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

Announcements

The Christmas Card box is in the narthex for you to drop off Christmas cards for members of the congregation (Please do not include cards for former members or shut-ins). Please deposit cards in the box. Pastor Ceselsky will arrange the cards each week (**do not sort cards yourself!**). Please check each week to see if you have any cards.

We will be holding a Cookie Exchange next Sunday, December 14 to raise money for the roof project. All who are able to bring at least 3 dozen or more cookies (preferably homemade) are asked to bring them in the morning. After worship anyone may purchase a tin of the cookies of your choice for \$10 each. It's a great way to support the church and to get a variety of cookies for Christmas.

Our Christmas Offering this year will once again go to the Ministerial Relief Fund of the PCA. This fund is used to assist widows of pastors and missionaries, as well as retired pastors and missionaries, who face difficult financial circumstances.

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 TODAY!

In the case of bad weather on days when we have Bible studies, or on Sundays; notifications of cancellations or schedule changes will be made via blast email, text alerts, a bar at the top of the main page of our website, and on the church's answering system.

Donations for the Roof repair can be made through the ARC Fund. Please use a pink envelope and label it “ARC” or “Roof.” Estimated Cost of the project: \$107,185.00. Total amount paid so far: \$74,240.00. Total amount raised so far: \$11,710.00.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Thursday (December 11) is both Angela Andrade’s and Lee Cade’s Birthday.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Betty Jo Norris as she recovers from a recent hospital stay.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Mecca Dean, Dr. Dean’s great-grandson, as he recovers from recent issues with seizures.
3. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Calvin & Geeta – MTW South Asia – Please be in prayer for Calvin and Geeta, as they prepare their church for their annual Christmas celebrations. These have traditionally been the source of tremendous evangelism in their region.
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 with The Lord’s Supper
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27
Tuesday:	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting – John’s Office
Wednesday:	12:00 PM	Women’s Bible Study Christmas Lunch – The Peppermill
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
	12:30 PM	Cookie Exchange – Room 11

Coming Soon

Christmas Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, December 24 – 6:30 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: December 7, 2025

Text: 1 Samuel 10:1b-8

Sermon Title: “Do What Your Hand Finds To Do”

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: The Lord empowers those whom he calls.

Main Point 1: Saul will be assured.

Point 1: At Rachel’s Tomb. (v. 2)

Point 2: At the Oak of Tabor. (vv. 3-4)

Point 3: At Gibeah. (v. 5)

Main Point 2: Saul is empowered.

Point 1: To prophesy. (v. 6)

Point 2: To act. (v. 7)

Main Point 3: Saul is to submit. (v. 8)