

The Lord's Day

December 28, 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...

God (The greatest Lover), so loved (The greatest degree), the world (The greatest company), that he gave (The greatest act), his one and only Son (The greatest gift), that whoever (The greatest opportunity), believes (The greatest simplicity), in him (The greatest attraction), shall not perish (The greatest promise), but (The greatest difference), have (The greatest certainty), eternal life (The greatest possession).

R. Kent Hughes

Prelude

Coventry Carol

Robert Croo

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 36:5-9

⁵ Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶ Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.

⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

Invocation

Hymn No. 199

See, amid the Winter's Snow

See Amid The Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say—what’s your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing, ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Savior’s birth.”

Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy child, by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility.

We embrace Christ through His Word

The Command of God

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

We Confess Our Love for the World

The Promise of God (Unison)

John 15:19

**If [we] were of the world, the world would love [us] as its own;
but because [we] are not of the world, but [God] chose [us] out of the world,
therefore the world hates [us].**

Our Assurance and Calling in Christ (Responsive)

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Hymn No. 219

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

Canonbury

All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
Choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

Once did the skies before thee bow; a virgin’s arms contain thee now;

Angels who did in thee rejoice now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest, that weary ones in thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is thy birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
To make us, in the realms divine, like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done; by this to thee our love is won;
For this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

RE Riley B. Franklin

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

All Creation Sings

J.S. Bach
The Aisquith Choir

Sun, moon, earth and stars break forth in exultation! All creation sings the glorious resurrection!
Christ is risen! Death is vanquished! Heav'n and earth repeat the glad refrain. Mountains, hills
and dales ring out with acclamation! Oceans, lakes and valleys all join the glad ovation. Christ is
risen! Death is vanquished! All creation sings for joy: Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. O
what glory far exceeding all that eye had yet perceived. Holiest hearts for ages pleading, never
had such joy conceived.

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

John 3:16-21

Pew Bible pg. 888

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Sermon

"A Love That Gives"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn No. 529

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Beecher

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breath thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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

Danish

Postlude

In The Bleak Mid-Winter

Christine Rossetti

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

Announcements

2026 Giving Envelopes are available with the Christmas cards in the narthex. If you do not currently have envelopes but would like them in 2026, please speak to Pastor Ceselsky.

Thank You to all who donated and participated in the Cookie Exchange last week. We raised over \$400 for the roof repair.

Our Christmas Offering this year is going 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.

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."

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Today is both Pastor Ceselsky and Diane Eisenmeier's Birthdays.

Prayer Requests

1. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Phil & Amina – MTW (South Asia) – We give thanks that the Christmas Outreach programs in their country went very well with a lot of visitors. Please pray for Phil & Amina (and Calvin & Geeta) as well as the members of the two plants as they follow up with those who came to these events.
2. 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, Betty Jo Norris, Libby Soule, Robert Willis (Rick's brother) & Ken Wilson.
3. 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
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27
NEXT Sunday	10:30 AM	Lord's Day Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice – Rooms 26-27

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 28, 2025

Text: John 3:16-21

Sermon Title: "A Love That Gives"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: Salvation is freely available.

Main Point 1: Salvation begins with God's love. (v. 16)

Point 1: Who is the lover?

Point 2: Who are the recipients of God's love?

Point 3: How did God act upon His love for the world?

Main Point 2: Jesus saves “the world.” (v. 17)

Point 1: The world stands condemned already.

Point 2: Christ came to save us out of the world.

Main Point 3: The world’s response to Jesus.

Point 1: Reject Christ. (vv. 18b-20)

Point 2: Trust Christ. (vv. 18a, 21)