

The Lord's Day

January 4, 2026 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...

Those who receive Christ's testimony as true, take it unto themselves. They rest their souls upon it. They make it their own. They allow nothing to make them doubt what he has said. No matter whether they can thoroughly understand it or no; no matter whether it seems reasonable or unreasonable, they implicitly believe it. Whether their feelings respond or not, makes no difference – the Son of God has spoken, and that is enough. Arthur Pink

Prelude

Still, Still With Thee

(Tune: Consolation) Felix Mendelssohn

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

Deuteronomy 5:9-10

⁹ I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Invocation

Hymn No. 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing...

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...

We embrace Christ through His Word

The Command of God

1 John 3:23

And this is [God's] commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Psalm of Confession (Responsive)

Psalm 6

¹ O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

² **Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.**

³ My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long?

⁴ **Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.**

⁵ For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

⁶ **I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.**

⁷ My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

⁸ **Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.**

⁹ The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

¹⁰ **All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.**

We Individually Confess Our Sin

We Confess Christ (Responsive)

Colossians 2:6-15

⁶ As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

⁷ **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.**

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition,

according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

¹⁰ **and [we] have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.**

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

¹² **having been buried with him in baptism, in which [we] were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.**

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

¹⁴ **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.**

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame,
by triumphing over them in him.

Hymn No. 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels:

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of hea'v above;
glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

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

RE Jeff Soule

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory When I Survey The Wondrous Cross (Tune Hamburg) Isaac Watts, arr. J. Green
The Aisquith Choir

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.

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 3:22-36

Pew Bible pg. 888

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly

at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Sermon

"The Increase of Decreasing"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

Hymn

All Glory Be to Christ our King Dustin Kensrue (Auld Lang Syne)

Should nothing of our efforts stand no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn all glory be to Christ

**All glory be to Christ our King all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign will ever sing all glory be to Christ**

His will be done His kingdom come on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet all glory be to Christ

When on the day the great I Am the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be all glory be to Christ

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn No. 735

Gloria Patri

Greatorrex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.

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

Danish

Postlude

And Can It Be, That I Should Gain

Charles Wesley, arr. K. Dean

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.

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.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is hereby called for 12:00 PM on Sunday, February 8. The purpose of this meeting is to review the annual reports and vote on changes to Aisquith's By-Laws (copies of the proposed By-Laws may be found in the narthex).

Annual Reports are due to Pastor Ceselsky no later than Sunday, January 25.

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." Total Spent through December 2025: \$111,360.00 – Total Raised: \$19,694.11.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week: Saturday (January 10) is Roger Kauffman's Birthday, and NEXT Sunday (January 11) is both Noe Andrade's and Vicki D'Angelo's Birthdays.

Prayer Requests

1. Please be in prayer for Nancy Pearre as she has an eye procedure on Tuesday.
2. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Eric & Anna Graham – MTW Next (Columbia) – Please be in prayer for Eric and Anna (and their family) as their home suffered water damage from a busted pipe in the apartment above theirs. Work is being done and thankfully nothing was destroyed. Please pray that the Lord would bless them in this time as they serve the Lord and His people.
3. 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.
4. 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
Tuesday:	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Practice – Room 28
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study – Rooms 15-16 (Please prepare Lesson 6 on Daniel 5:1-31 (Pages 55-62))
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study – Rooms 15-16

(Please prepare pages 62-68 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

Coming Soon

Annual Congregational Meeting – February 8, 2026 – 12:00 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: January 4, 2026

Text: John 3:22-36

Sermon Title: "The Increase of Decreasing"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: We must make Christ increase in our lives, while we make ourselves decrease.

Main Point 1: A servant's heart.

Point 1: A servant's heart is a humble heart.

Point 2: A servant's heart embraces its role.

Point 3: A servant's heart completes its task.

Main Point 2: A Savior's Height.

Point 1: His heavenly origin.

Point 2: His heavenly revelation

Point 3: His heavenly Spirit.

Point 4: His heavenly love.

Point 5: His heavenly authority.