

The Lord's Day

August 23, 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...

Remember why Saul was so impressive to Israel, and why they wanted him as king to go before them into battle? Saul's chief feature was his tall stature. Now Israel, and Saul, would learn the problem with relying on worldly sources of strength. If you are counting on money, there is always someone richer. If you are trusting in brains, there is someone smarter. And if you are relying on size, there is always someone bigger. Goliath was a lot bigger than Saul or anyone else in Israel's army! In situations like this, it would certainly be good to be able to call upon the Lord! But this was a privilege that Saul no longer enjoyed or apparently even sought.

Richard Phillips

Prelude *All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Medley)* Mrs. Donna Moore-Green & Raymond Green

Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1-9 (Responsive)

¹ Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

³ Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

⁴ Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.

⁶ The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?

⁷ The Lord is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

⁹ **It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.**

Invocation

Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

We embrace Christ through His Word

Our Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 28

What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by his providence does still uphold all things?

That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from his love; since all creatures are so in his hand, that without his will they cannot so much as move.

Psalter Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,**
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³ **though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.**

⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹ **He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.**

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

¹¹ **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

The Promise of Christ

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world.

We Confess Christ (Responsive)

1 John 4:1-6

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,
for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² By this you know the Spirit of God:

every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which [we] heard was coming and now is in the world already.

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them,

for he who is in [us] is greater than he who is in the world.

⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

⁶ We are from God.

Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.

By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Hymn No. 347

The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

The church's One foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

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

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

There Is a Savior

soloist: Mrs. Donna Moore-Green

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 17:1-11

Pew Bible pg. 239

¹ Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Sermon

"The Man of the Between"

Pastor Ceselsky

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

We respond to God's Grace

Hymn No. 92

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

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

Danish

Postlude

Moment by Moment

Mrs. Donna Moore-Green & Raymond Green

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

Announcements

Cover Art: The picture on the front of the bulletin was taken by Pastor Ceselsky in the Valley of Elah (site of the encounter between David & Goliath) in March of 2023.

We welcome Mrs. Donna Moore-Green and Raymond Green as they fill in for Dr. Dean and lead us in worship this morning.

Do you know someone in need of a burial plot? Gus DeFord has a premium burial plot for sale at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Finksburg, Maryland. Please speak to Gus if you, or someone you know, may be interested.

Adult & Children's Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13. RE Riley B. Franklin will be leading the adult class in a study of the Minor Prophets.

The Men's and Women's Bible Studies will resume on September 15 and 16 respectively. The men will conclude the study on the prophecy of Daniel (from the Spring) and then move on to a study of the Book of Romans – please speak with Pastor Ceselsky if you have any questions. The women's study will be on the Parables of Jesus – please speak with Julie Ceselsky if you have any questions or need a copy of the materials.

The Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns (GBCPC) is inviting everyone to join with them for their biggest event of the year! This year's Gala "Hope and a Future" will be held at the Sheraton Towson on Thursday, September 10th, 7:00–9:00 pm. The evening will be a time to connect with others, enjoy dinner, support our prolife mission, and hear an impactful message from guest speaker Rebekah Hagan. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required and seats are filling. Learn more and reserve your seat today at cpcforhelp.org/gala26.

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: Wednesday (August 26) is Norm & Betty Jo Norris’ Anniversary and Friday (August 28) is Paul & Karen Wallace’s Anniversary.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for Judi Mason’s (and her daughter Katie’s) friend, Mike Rourke as he recovers from a blackout and accident while doing yard work. Pray for a full recovery and for doctors to be able to determine the cause of the blackout.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for Sandy Loveless’ friend, Robin. We can give praise that Robin does not need the double mastectomy and that she does not carry any other of the known cancer genes.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Libby Soule as she continues with a new physical therapy regimen. Please pray especially for a reduction of dizziness, confusion, daily migraines, and chronic fatigue.
4. Missions Prayer Request for the Week: Linda Karner – MTW (Japan) – Linda has asked that we pray for her home/ministry city of Chiba in Japan (also Yuki Fisher’s parents live in Chiba). Chiba experienced a record rainfall last week: some areas received as much as 2 meters in 24 hours, and Chiba City received 3.6 meters - three times its normal for the whole month of August. Apparently 3 typhoons in the Pacific Ocean were converging on Chiba, with disastrous results. There were 10 deaths, 1500 homes affected and 2500 cars disabled and abandoned on the road. Authorities are still assessing the impact on the rice fields. It will take some time to fully recover. Linda was away at the time but has received news that her apartment building suffered no real damage. (Yuki Fisher also passed along that her parents are safe and well.)
5. Please continue to be in prayer for those in our congregation who have on-going health concerns: Evelyn King; Maisie Manning’s daughter, Yvonne; Betty Jo Norris; Alice Orie, Robert Willis (Rick’s brother), & Ken Wilson.
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
NEXT Sunday	10:30 AM	Lord’s Day Worship Service

Coming Soon

Sunday School – Sunday, September 13, 9 AM
Men’s Bible Study – Tuesday, September 15, 7 PM
Women’s Bible Study – Wednesday, September 16, 10:30 AM

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

Women's Care Ministry: Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Judi Mason, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

Sermon Notes

Date: August 23, 2026

Text: 1 Samuel 17:1-11

Sermon Title: "The Man of the Between"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: God's people must always rely upon him, not upon the things of this world.

Main Point 1: The Valley of Elah.

Point 1: The Philistines gathered. (v. 1)

Point 2: Saul and Israel were gathered. (v. 2)

Main Point 2: The Giant from Gath.

Point 1: The Man. (v. 4)

Point 2: The Weaponry. (vv. 5-7)

Point 3: The Challenge. (vv. 8-10)

Main Point 3: The Response of Saul and All Israel. (v. 11)