

The Lord's Day

November 22, 2020 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...

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave¹ to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:34-36 (ESV)

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-4 (ESV)

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Hymn No. 6

O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

Tidings

O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker,
And all within me bless his holy name;
Bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies,
His pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

***Bless him forever, wondrous in might,
Bless him, his servants that in his will delight.***

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion,
Most slow to anger, plenteous in love;
Rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him,
Boundless and endless as the heav'ns above.

His love is like a father's to his children,
Tender and kind to all who fear his name;
For well he knows our weakness and our frailty,
He knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

We fade and die like flow'rs that grow in beauty,
Like tender grass that soon will disappear;
But evermore the love of God is changeless,

Still shown to those who look to him in fear.

High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever,
His kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;
Bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion,
Bless his most holy name, O thou my soul.

Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (**responsive**)

Psalms 119:41-48 (NIV)

⁴¹ May your unfailing love come to me, LORD, your salvation, according to your promise;

⁴² **then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word.**

⁴³ Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.

⁴⁴ **I will always obey your law, for ever and ever.**

⁴⁵ I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

⁴⁶ **I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame,**

⁴⁷ for I delight in your commands because I love them.

⁴⁸ **I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees.**

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:1-6 (ESV)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

The Belgic Confession, Art. 25

We believe that the ceremonies and figures of the law ceased at the coming of Christ, and that all the shadows are accomplished; so that the use of them must be abolished among Christians; yet the truth and substance of them remain with us in Jesus Christ, in whom they have their completion. In the meantime we still use the testimonies taken out of the law and the prophets, to confirm us in the doctrine of the gospel, and to regulate our life in all honesty to the glory of God, according to His will.

Hymn

In Christ Alone

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In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Till on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand
'Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1-6 (ESV)

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Sermon

"Born Free"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 461 (vv 1-3)

Not What My Hands Have Done

Leominster

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;

Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

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

Danish

Postlude

We will have a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 PM this Wednesday night.

Our Thanksgiving offering will go to the Mission to North America Mercy Ministries. There are brochures in the narthex that detail the various ways your special gifts will be used. Mark a pink envelope "Thanksgiving" or use the Thanksgiving envelope in your 2020 envelopes.

The Nominating Committee will begin its work soon. If you have any recommendations to make for the offices of Elder or Deacon, or to serve as a Deaconess, please write down the person's name and the position you are suggesting and put it in Pastor Ceselsky's mailbox on the first floor of the Education building. Pray for God to raise up the leaders of his choosing.

You can still donate used ink cartridges. Cartridges can be placed in the box in the kitchen or given to John or Julie Ceselsky.