

## *The Second Sunday of Advent*

December 6, 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...*

*We don't have to become like God before we can encounter him, because God became like us first. God meets us right where we are, without preconditions... God became man in order that man might enter into a relationship and fellowship with him.*

**Alister McGrath**

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

### **We praise our great God**

Call to Worship

Today we light *the candle of joy* because the good news of Jesus' birth brings us and all people the greatest joy. In Luke's gospel we read that the angel told the shepherds, "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.*" (2:10)

Gracious God and faithful Lord, give us joy in our hearts now and forever. Fill us with your Spirit so that we want to tell other people about this joy too. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*We light this candle as a symbol of our Joy, who has come into the world.*

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...

Invocation

### **We embrace Christ our Savior**

Confession of Sin (unison)

The Church of Wales

Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart. We have not loved others as Christ loves us. We are truly sorry. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory and praise of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (unison)

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1

What is your only comfort in life and death?

**That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.**

Hymn No. 199

*See, amid the Winter's Snow*

Goss

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.

Mission's Report

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 in Word and Sacrament**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 54:1-8 (ESV)

**54** “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;  
break forth into singing and cry aloud,  
you who have not been in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more  
 than the children of her who is married,” says the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>“Enlarge the place of your tent,  
 and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;  
 do not hold back; lengthen your cords  
 and strengthen your stakes.  
<sup>3</sup>For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,  
 and your offspring will possess the nations  
 and will people the desolate cities.  
<sup>4</sup>“Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;  
 be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;  
 for you will forget the shame of your youth,  
 and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.  
<sup>5</sup>For your Maker is your husband,  
 the LORD of hosts is his name;  
 and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,  
 the God of the whole earth he is called.  
<sup>6</sup>For the LORD has called you  
 like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,  
 like a wife of youth when she is cast off,  
 says your God.  
<sup>7</sup>For a brief moment I deserted you,  
 but with great compassion I will gather you.  
<sup>8</sup>In overflowing anger for a moment  
 I hid my face from you,  
 but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”  
 says the LORD, your Redeemer.

Sermon	“Christ’s Good Purposes Satisfied”	Rev. Charles Angert
Hymn	<i>Behold the Lamb (The Communion Hymn)</i>	Getty/Townend CCLI Lic. No. 944471

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away Slain for us and we remember  
 The promise made that all who come in faith Find forgiveness at the cross.

***So we share in this bread of life And we drink of His sacrifice  
 As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King.***

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you Eat and remember  
 The wounds that healed the death that brings us life Paid the price to make us one.

***So we share in this bread of life And we drink of His sacrifice  
 As a sign of our bonds of love Around the table of the King.***

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you Drink and remember  
 He drained death’s cup that all may enter in To receive the life of God.

***So we share in this bread of life And we drink of His sacrifice  
 As a sign of our bonds of grace Around the table of the King.***

The Lord’s Supper

**We respond to God's grace**

Hymn

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise To respond and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ As His body He loves us

*And we share in his suffering We proclaim Christ will come again  
And with joy in the feast of Heaven Around the table of the King . . .*

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

Danish

Postlude

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**We Welcome and Thank** Mrs. Wendy Wickham for providing the musical accompaniment today.

**We Welcome** Chuck & Barbara Angert who will be presenting a final report to Aisquith following the worship service in Room 11. A light lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

**The sign up book** for Christmas poinsettias on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$9.00 again this year. The deadline is TODAY! You can also sign up by emailing Pastor Ceselsky ([john@aisquith.org](mailto:john@aisquith.org)). Put the money in a pink envelope and write your name and "Flowers" on the outside.

**The Maryland State Boychoir** will NOT be holding their Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, they are producing a recording drawn from past years which will be broadcast on WBJC 91.5 on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will also be available for purchase as a CD.

**We will have** a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.