

Christmas Day

December 25, 2011

11:00 AM

Preparation for worship begins as you enter the sanctuary. Please consider others by turning off your cell phones and ending all conversations as you are seated. Read through the order of worship, the scriptures and the hymns. Pray silently for God to speak and to bless in all of us. Don't forget to greet those around you after the service.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Sigh and long for the dawning of that morning and the breaking of that day of the coming of the Son of Man, when the shadows shall flee away.

Samuel Rutherford (1600-61)

Prelude *Christmas Medley* Sadie Heston-Wickham, violin
Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship (responsive) Psalm 98:1-4, 6b (ESV)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his
righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous
song and sing praises!

Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

*Hymn No. 203 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading

Psalm 89:1-37

(Hymnal, pg. 815)

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,
 " ' **I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.** ' "

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?

In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.

You crushed Rahab like one of the slain; with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.

The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.

You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.

Your arm is endued with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.

For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn.

Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said:

"I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have exalted a young man from among the people.

"I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.

"My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.

"No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him.

"I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.

"My faithful love will be with him, and through my may his horn will be exalted.

"I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.

"He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'

"I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.

"I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail.

"I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.

"If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes,

"if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands,

"I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging;

"but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness,

"but I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

"Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—and I will not lie to David—

"that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun;

"it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky."

**The Gloria Patri*

(Hymnal, pg. 734)

*Assurance of Grace (responsive)

Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all the people,

training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous

for good works.

*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.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

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. 732)* and Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

We hear God speak

Scripture	Isaiah 9:1-7	(Pew Bible, pg. 489)
Sermon	“From the Shadow to the Son”	Pastor Bell

We respond to God's Grace

*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...

*Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (Hymnal, pg. 740)	Danish
Postlude <i>The Master Hath Come</i>	Welsh

 *Those who are able, please stand.

Congratulations to Xin and Dong Wang who welcomed their new son Isaac on Wednesday.

As you plan your year-end giving, remember that our special *Our Christmas offering* will again go to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund to assist the widows of PCA pastors and missionaries in times of distress. With all the special appeals at this time of year, don't forget your commitment to our church. Please submit your pledges for next year as soon as possible.

Baby Bottles are available for your January gift to the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns. We will collect them on January 22th.

This is what to do if there is fresh snow or ice when you wake up on a Sunday morning. The decision on whether to have church will be made by 8 AM. Cancellation announcements will be posted on WRBS SHINE (95.1 FM). There will also be a message on the church answering machine and on our website (www.aisquith.org). In addition, you may call one of the pastors or elders. When it appears that conditions will improve by mid-morning, we may only cancel the early service and Sunday School and still hold the 11 AM service. Our decision will be based primarily on road conditions and the availability of parking. Don't assume, check! If you have any questions please speak to one of the elders.

2011 Financial Report through November 30th

Budget: \$332,800	Expense: \$309,900
Income: \$301,600	Shortfall: \$8,300

As of December 18th, we had received 53 pledges for a total of \$206,000. In the past couple of years, we have had 56 – 59 pledges. There is still time for you to make a financial commitment before God for the ministry of Aisquith in 2012.

If you can be available during the day to drive someone to a doctor's appointment or to a hospital for a medical procedure, and would like to serve one of your fellow Aisquithians, please contact Julie Ceselsky (410-836-6655). These needs are rarely emergencies, so you will usually know several days beforehand.

If you'd like to review the order of worship before you come to church on Sunday, the bulletin is now available on our website: www.aisquith.org on Friday. The words to the hymns and readings are also posted so that you can come prepared to participate as we worship God together.