

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

We prepare for worship

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

Almighty God, my Father, only you are worthy of my allegiance and my desire. Help me to seek only you and to take the rest as it comes from your sovereign hand. Purify my mind and heart, because without your work in me, I'm unable to live up to your holy requirements for me. Amen.

Prelude

Stacia Gallagher, Soprano
Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

Its light reminds us of Jesus, the Light of the world. "In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4, 5).

"Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

"If we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

"For you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness" (1 Thes 5:5). Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness" (John 12:46).

We light this candle as a symbol of the joy that the angels spoke of, the joy of knowing that Christ has come into the world.

*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.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sin (unison)

from Malachi 3:1-4

O Lord God, who among us can endure the day of your coming? Who among us can stand when you blaze before us in all your terrible holiness? We confess, O Sovereign God, that we have sinned. We have not loved you above all, and thus we have found it the more difficult to love our neighbors, who bear your image. Purify us from all unrighteousness. Pour upon us your refiner's fire; wash us by your Holy Spirit. By your grace alone make us acceptable again in your sight, that we might stand with you in the blazing holiness of Jesus, our Lord, in whom we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Qs 45-47

The first commandment is “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”¹ It requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God;² and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.³ It forbids the denying,⁴ or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God as God,⁵ and our God;⁶ and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to Him alone.⁷

¹ Ex. 20:3 ² 1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:17 ³ Matt. 4:10; Ps 29:2 ⁴ Ps. 14:1 ⁵ Rom. 1:21 ⁶ Ps. 81:10, 11

⁷ Rom. 1:25, 26

*Hymn No. 195

Joy to the World

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...

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. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

Advent Cry

Joseph Martin

Veni, veni, Redemptor. Peace will come on the wings of a promise. Hope will come like the morning's first call. Joy will come on the winds of the Spirit. Love will come. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Peace will come on the wings of the angels. Hope will come like a song in the night. Joy will blossom like roses in springtime. Love will come. Come, Lord Jesus.

Musical Interlude

After the Offertory, children grades 1-4 may recess for Children's Church through the side door, or may remain with their families.

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Terah's Descendants

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Sermon

"A Promised Place"

Pastor Bell

Hymn No. 219 (vv. 1-3)

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

Canonbury

All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
Choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

Once did the skies before thee bow; a virgin's arms contain thee now; angels who did in thee
rejoice now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest, that weary ones in thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is thy birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

The Lord's Supper**We respond to God's grace**

*Hymn No. 219 (vv. 4, 5)

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

Canonbury

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
To make us, in the realms divine, like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done; by this to thee our love is won;
For this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

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

Postlude

*Pavanne*Danish
William Byrd

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our thanks to Steven Bailey, trumpet and Stacia Gallagher, soprano for their participation with us today.

The Adult Choir will hold December rehearsals for the Christmas Eve service at their regular rehearsal time, Thursday nights at 7:30 PM.

The Canticle Singers, under the direction of Wendy Wickham will present a concert for Christmas on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Allegheny Ave. in Towson. The concert is free, but an offering will be taken.

The Maryland State Boychoir will present The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Boychoir Center for the Arts, 3400 Norman Ave. on Sunday, December 11 at 4 PM; Saturday, December 17 at 7 PM; and Sunday, December 18 at 4 PM. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 depending on seating preference. Please call 410-554-8644 for tickets or information.

The Christmas card box and file are in the narthex. If you'd like to distribute cards to our congregation members just drop them in the box and then check the alphabetical file under your own last name. PLEASE don't put in cards for our many shut-ins. Mail them! They will enjoy hearing from you.

Plan now to attend a free conference from Ravi Zacharias International Ministries on "Understanding and Answering Islam", *January 13 and 14, 2017*. We will be broadcasting the conference live in room 11 on the video screen. Friday 7– 9:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM (with morning, lunch and afternoon breaks). You are welcome to attend only the parts you can make. There is no charge, but an offering basket will be available. You can find more information on the speakers at www.RZIMUAI.org. If you have any other questions, please contact Elder Tom Ley ([443\) 846-6362](tel:443-846-6362)

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY	10:30 AM	Worship and the Lord's Supper Children's Church (grades 1-4)
	12:30 PM	WIC Christmas Tea
	6:30 PM	Youth Activities (grades 7-12)
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	Men's Bible Study (at the church)
	10:30 AM	Ladies' Bible Study (church library)
	7:00 PM	Ladies' Bible Study (church library)
WEDNESDAY	7:30 PM	Youth Bible Study (John's office)
THURSDAY	7:30 PM	Adult Choir rehearsal (third floor)
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School (for all ages)
	10:30 AM	Worship Children's Church (grades 1-4)

Coming Soon

CHRISTMAS EVE Service at 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY only worship at 10:30 AM
 (no Sunday School or Children's Programs)

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