

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

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...

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Psalm 123:1, 2

Prelude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Mr. Tim Topoleski, violin

Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting (responsive)

The Scriptures record that even in the Garden of Eden, God had a plan to redeem his fallen people through the coming of Christ. Then came the voice from one in the desert, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

As we come closer to Christmas, our days are filled with preparations. Let us also prepare our hearts to celebrate again the coming of the Savior.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has redeemed his people!

(ALL) We light this second Advent candle as we prepare to mark again the coming of the One who would save his people from their sin.

*Hymn No. 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading

Psalm 40:1-11

(Hymnal pg. 799)

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done.

The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;

were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced;

burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll.

"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD.

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.

I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

1 Peter 1:17-20 (ESV)

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

Knowing that [we] were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from [our] forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,

But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for [our] sake,

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, VIII.6

Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein He was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent's head, and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world, being yesterday and today the same, and forever.¹

¹ Gal. 4:4, 5; Gen. 3:16; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 13:8

*Hymn No. 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Thirsting

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 10:1-15 (ESV)

The Sun Stands Still

10 As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, ² he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. ³ So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, ⁴ “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.” ⁵ Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” ⁷ So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. ⁸ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” ⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

¹² At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. ¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵ So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

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

The Holy Child Will Come

arr. Liebergen
The Adult Choir

He will come, Emmanuel! He will come on earth to dwell! He will come, Emmanuel, Holy Child of Israel! He will come on earth to dwell! Hodie! Come today! Holy Child, come down from God above, and bring to all your peace and love. O Lord of Light, forever we will praise your blessed birth for all our days. Let all rejoice, for the day is near; through dark of night the Lord shall appear. Let all rejoice when the star shines bright, and shows the way through the dark of night. All rejoice! Glory be to God above, for the Child will come in love, grateful praise to God above. Allelu, sing with joy! Grateful praise to God above. He will come in peace and love! Hodie! Come today!

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

Scripture Reading

Genesis 22:1-19

(Pew Bible, pg. 14)

The Sacrifice of Isaac

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham **lifted up his eyes** and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham **lifted up his eyes** and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Sermon

Pastor Bell

"Lift up your eyes and see the Crisis you must face"

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee, his chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in my reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (*Hymnal*, pg. 740)
Postlude *The Master Is Coming*

Danish
Welsh

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our thanks to Mr. Topoleski for his participation today.

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 last name. PLEASE don't put in cards for our many shut-ins. Mail them! They will enjoy hearing from you.

You are invited to join the choir for Christmas Eve! See Gloria if you have questions.

Tickets for the Maryland State Boychoir Festival of Lessons and Carols are still available for Saturday, December 16th at 7 PM; and Sunday, December 17th at 4 PM. Tickets are \$25 and \$20; Students tickets are \$15. Call 410-554-8644 to get yours. There will also be a FREE presentation on Wednesday, December 13th at 7 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church on Northern Parkway.

You are invited to an a cappella Christmas hymn and carol fest at Living Hope PCA (440 Darlington Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078) on Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 PM.

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY	10:30 AM	Worship Children's Church (grades 1-4)
	Noon	Impact Committee (John's office)
	6:30-8:30 PM	Youth Group (grades 7-12)
MONDAY	7:00 PM	Young Adult Bible Study (John's office)
WEDNESDAY	7:30 PM	Youth Group Bible Study (3 rd floor)
THURSDAY	7:30 PM	Choir practice (3 rd floor)
FRIDAY	6:00 PM	Youth Group Caroling and Christmas Party
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Children's Church (grades 1-4)
		No Youth Group until January

Coming Soon

Sunday, December 24th 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Advent Sermon Series

December 2017

"Lift up your eyes"

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Psalms 123:1, 2

December 3	"Lift up your eyes and see the Choice you must make" Will you chose...the World or the Word?	Genesis 13:1-18
December 10	"Lift up your eyes and see the Crisis you must face" Will you chose...Fatalism or Faith?	Genesis 22:1-19
December 17	"Lift up your eyes and see the Commander you must follow" Will you chose to be...Apprehensive or Active?	Joshua 5:13-15
December 24	"Lift up your eyes and see the Christ you must worship" Will you chose...Revulsion or Reverence?	Daniel 10:1-19
December 31	"Lift up your eyes and see the Consummation you will experience" Will you chose...the Earthly or the Eternal?	Isaiah 51:1-11

Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

John 4:35