

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 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

We Fall Down

Tomlin
The Homeschool Choir
Mrs. Wendy Wickham, Organist

We praise our great God

Choral Introit

Away in a Manger

Mueller

*Call to Worship (responsive)

from Isaiah and John (ESV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! (Isaiah 60:1)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (Isaiah 60:2)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)

*Invocation

*Hymn No. 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints below the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

*Hymn No. 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 74

(Hymnal pg. 812)

Why have you rejected us forever, O God?

Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember the people you purchased of old, the tribe of your inheritance, whom you redeemed—Mount Zion, where you dwelt.

Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.

Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs.

They behaved like men wielding axes to cut through a thicket of trees.

They smashed all the carved paneling with their axes and hatchets.

They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the dwelling place of your Name.

They said in their hearts, "We will crush them completely!" They burned every place where God was worshipped in the land.

We are given no miraculous signs; no prophets are left, and none of us knows how long this will be.

How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever?

Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!

But you, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the earth.

It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters.

It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert.

It was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever flowing rivers.

The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon.

It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Remember how the enemy has mocked you, O LORD, how foolish people have reviled your name.

Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; do not forget the lives of your afflicted people forever.

Have regard for your covenant, because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.

Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name.

Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; remember how fools mock you all day long.

Do not ignore the clamor of your adversaries, the uproar of your enemies, which rises continually.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

2 Peter 3:8-10a, 13 (ESV)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward [us], not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved,

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXIII.2

The end of God's appointing this day [of judgment] is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be

punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. ¹

¹Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 2:5, 6;; 9:22, 23; Matt. 25:21; Acts 3:19; 2 Thes. 1:7-10

*Hymn No. 211

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English melody

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright,
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 11:1-15 (ESV)

Conquests in Northern Canaan

11 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, ²and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, ³to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. ⁴And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. ⁵And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

⁶And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." ⁷So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. ⁸And the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. And they struck them until he left none remaining. ⁹And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

¹⁰And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. ¹¹And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire. ¹²And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. ¹³But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. ¹⁴And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people

of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. ¹⁵ Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

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

Were You There on that Christmas Night

Sleeth

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

Isaiah 51:1-11

(Pew Bible, pg. 521)

The LORD's Comfort for Zion

51 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
 you who seek the LORD:
 look to the rock from which you were hewn,
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your father
 and to Sarah who bore you;
 for he was but one when I called him,
 that I might bless him and multiply him.
³ For the LORD comforts Zion;
 he comforts all her waste places
 and makes her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;
 joy and gladness will be found in her,
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴ "Give attention to me, my people,
 and give ear to me, my nation;
 for a law will go out from me,
 and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵ My righteousness draws near,
 my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will judge the peoples;
 the coastlands hope for me,
 and for my arm they wait.
⁶ **Lift up your eyes** to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;

but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

⁷“Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;
fear not the reproach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

⁸For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool,
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations.”

⁹Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD;
awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.

Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,
who pierced the dragon?

¹⁰Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to pass over?

¹¹And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sermon

“*Lift up your eyes* and see the Consummation you will experience”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 324

Christ Is Coming!

Neander

Christ is coming! Let creation from her groans and travail cease;
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.

Earth can now but tell the story of thy bitter cross and pain;
She shall yet behold thy glory, when thou comest back to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the strain.

Long thine exiles have been pining, far from rest, and home, and thee:
But, in heav'nly vestures shining, they their loving Lord shall see:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Haste the joyous jubilee.

With that blessed hope before us, let no harp remain unstrung;
Let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
“Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!”

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

Danish

*Those who are able, please stand.

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.

The 2018 Offering Envelopes are also on the narthex table. Make sure you take yours today!

Don't forget our Christmas Offering which goes to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund to assist the widows and families of our ministers and missionaries.

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY	10:30 AM	Worship Children's Church (grades 1-4) No Youth Group until January
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship and the Lord's Supper Children's Church (grades 1-4) No Youth Group until January

Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor
Rev. John E. Ceselsky, Assistant Pastor
Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

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