

# *The First Sunday in Advent*

December 2, 2018

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, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.*

*Fourth Sunday before Christmas, The Book of Common Prayer*

Prelude

*Voluntary*

John Stanley  
Gloria Hague, Director of Music

## **We praise our great God**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

**The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel" (7:14).**

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28).

**We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.**

God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

**We light this candle as a symbol of our Hope, who 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**

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 28

(Hymnal pg. 793)

To you I call, O LORD my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me.

**For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.**

Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,

**as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.**

Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil,

**who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.**

Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work;

**repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve.**

Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD and what his hands have done,

**he will tear them down and never build them up again.**

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

**The LORD is my strength and my shield;**

my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

**My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

**Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Hebrews 11:1, 2, 13-17 (ESV)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**For by it the people of old received their commendation...**

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

**For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.**

If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

**But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Confession of Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, VII.2, 3

**The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works,<sup>1</sup> wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity;<sup>2</sup> upon condition of perfect and personal holiness.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gal 3:12 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:5; 5:12-20 <sup>3</sup> Gen. 2:17; Gal. 3:10

**Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second,<sup>1</sup> commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved,<sup>2</sup> and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life His Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gal. 3:21; Rom. 8:3; 3:20, 21; Gen. 3:15; Isa. 42:6 <sup>2</sup> Mark 16:15, 16; Jn 3:16; Rom. 10:6, 9; Gal. 3:11

<sup>3</sup> Ezek. 36:26, 27; Jn 6:44, 45

\*Hymn No. 221 (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

German melody

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day.

Reception of a New Member

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!

*The children may dismiss for church-time programs.*

**We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

(Pew Bible, pg. 513)

**The LORD's Chosen Servant**

**42** Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
 I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
 a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
 my glory I give to no other,  
 nor my praise to carved idols.  
<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
 and new things I now declare;  
 before they spring forth  
 I tell you of them.”

Sermon  
 Hymn No. 246 (vv. 1-3)

“The Servant’s Song”  
*Man of Sorrows! What a Name*

Pastor Bell  
 Bliss

Man of Sorrows! What a name for the Son of God who came  
 Ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood,  
 Sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we; spotless Lamb of God was he;  
 Full atonement! Can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

The Lord’s Supper

**We respond to God’s grace**

\*Hymn No. 246 (vv. 4, 5)

*Man of Sorrows! What a Name*

Bliss

Lifted up was he to die, “It is finished!” was his cry;  
 Now in heav’n exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring,  
 Then anew this song we’ll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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

Postlude

*The Master Is Coming*

Danish  
 Welsh Traditional

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 \*Those who are able, please stand.

**We welcome JonCarlos Ley as our newest member today.**

**Christmas Card box is on the narthex table.**

**The Maryland State Boychoir** will be presenting the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 PM at the Boychoir Center for the Arts at 3400 Norman Avenue. Call 410-554-8644 for tickets and more information.

**This Week at Aisquith**

**TODAY**

**10:30 AM** Worship & The Lord’s Supper  
**6:30-8:30 PM** Youth Group

**THURSDAY**            **7:30 PM** Choir practice (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

**SUNDAY**            **9:00 AM** Sunday School  
**10:30 AM** Worship  
**12:30 PM** WIC Christmas Tea  
**6:30-8:30 PM** Youth Group

**Coming Soon**

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM WIC Christmas Tea (see the insert)**

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

**On Christmas Eve the Baltimore Brass will give a concert beginning  
at 6:30 PM and will participate in the music that evening.**

**Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor**

**Rev. John E. Ceselsky, Assistant Pastor**

**Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music**

**Manse: 410-444-5111**

**Home: 410-836-6655**

**Mobile: 443-467-0146**