

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 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...

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Third Sunday before Christmas, The Book of Common Prayer

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

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.

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. 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 (responsive)

Psalm 98

(Hymnal pg. 820)

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 his salvation known,
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
 He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
 make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
 Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;
 let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (ESV)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem

The LORD has taken away the judgments against [us]; he has cleared away [our] enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Confession of Faith (responsive)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Qs 37, 47

How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man? **Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to Himself a true body, and a reasonable soul,¹ being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her,² yet without sin.³**

¹ Jn 1:14; Matt. 26:38 ² Lk 1:27, 31, 35, 42; Gal. 4:4 ³ Heb. 4:15; 7:26

How did Christ humble Himself in His conception and birth? **Christ humbled Himself in His conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, He was pleased in the fullness of time to become the Son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.¹**

¹ Jn. 1:14, 18; Gal. 4:4; Lk 2:7

*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.

The Song of Deborah and Barak

5 Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:

²“That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the LORD!

³“Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing;
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁴“LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled
and the heavens dropped,
yes, the clouds dropped water.

⁵The mountains quaked before the LORD,
even Sinai before the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁶“In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned,
and travelers kept to the byways.

⁷The villagers ceased in Israel;
they ceased to be until I arose;
I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.

⁸When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.
Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?

⁹My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel
who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the LORD.

¹⁰“Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,
you who sit on rich carpets
and you who walk by the way.

¹¹To the sound of musicians at the watering places,
there they repeat the righteous triumphs of the LORD,
the righteous triumphs of his villagers in Israel.

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

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Praetorius

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 shew God's love aright She bore to men a Saviour,
When half-spent was the night.

The children may dismiss for church-time programs.

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

(Pew Bible, pg. 724)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Sermon

"Mary's Song"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 26

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

Woodlands

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
 Tender to me the promise of his word;
 In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
 His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might;
 Pow'rs and dominion lay their glory by;
 Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
 The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 To children's children and forever more.

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

Danish
 Otterstad

 *Those who are able, please stand.

Christmas Card box is on the narthex table.

The Canticle Singers under the direction of Wendy Wickham will present their winter concert, "O Morning Star," on Friday, December 7th at 7:30 PM at St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave. in Baltimore, and on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Allegheny Avenue in Towson. An offering will be taken at each performance. For more information please call 410-292-2576.

The Maryland State Boychoir will be presenting the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 22nd at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, December 23rd 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 12:30 PM WIC Christmas Tea 6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group
THURSDAY	7:30 PM Choir practice (3 rd floor)
SUNDAY	9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group

Coming Soon

Monday, December 24th 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

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