

# The Sunday after Christmas Day

December 30, 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, who has given us Your only-begotten Son, the brightness of Your glory, and the express image of Your person, to take our nature upon Him, and to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy spirit; till Christ is perfectly formed in us, and we are made partakers of a Divine nature, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen*

*The Book of Common Prayer*

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham, organist

## We praise our great God

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-4, 6b (ESV)

Oh 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 known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

\*Hymn No. 208

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of angels:

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

God of God, Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of hea'v above;  
glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

\*Invocation

## We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 86

(Hymnal pg. 814)

Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

**Guard my life, for I am devoted to you.**

You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.

**Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I call to you all day long.**

Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**You are forgiving and good, O LORD, abounding in love to all who call to you.**

Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.

**In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.**

Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours.

**All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name.**

For you are great and do marvelous deeds;

**you alone are God.**

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;

**give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.**

I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.**

The arrogant are attacking me, O God; a band of ruthless men seeks my life—men without regard for you.

**But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.**

Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant and save the son of your maidservant.

**Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

**But made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,**

So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

\*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.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gal. 4:4, 5; Gen. 3:16; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 13:8

\*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:

Old Testament Reading

Judges 6:1-10 (ESV)

### **Midian Oppresses Israel**

**6** The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. <sup>2</sup> And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. <sup>3</sup> For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. <sup>4</sup> They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. <sup>5</sup> For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. <sup>6</sup> And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, <sup>8</sup> the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. <sup>9</sup> And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup> And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.”

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 children may dismiss for church-time programs.*

### **We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:21-40

(Pew Bible, pg. 725)

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### **Jesus Presented at the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous

and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### **The Return to Nazareth**

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

"Simeon's Song"

Pastor Bell

### **We respond to God's grace**

\*Hymn No. 219

*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.

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)

Danish

Postlude

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**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

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

**The Offering envelopes for 2019 are also on the narthex table.**

**The Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study** will start a new book study, John McArthur's Colossians & Philemon, on January 8, 2019. If you are interested in joining us for this study, contact Janet Johnson (410-666-5814) so that she can order the book for you.

**Choir practice** will resume on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### **This Week at Aisquith**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship and the Lord's Supper</b>

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

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

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

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