

The Lord's Day

February 24, 2019

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...

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

Prelude

Sound the Trumpet

Purcell

Luis Engelke and Ginger Turner, Trumpet Duet
Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship

Psalm 9:7-11 (ESV)

The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment.

He rules the world in righteousness and judges the people with equity.

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.

*Hymn No. 355

We Are God's People

Symphony

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand;
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God out-poured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv'n;
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone for on its own each member loses fire;
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 42

(Hymnal pg. 800)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food day and night,

while men say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me?

“Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?”

My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Philippians 3:8b-11 (ESV)

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 26

What do you believe when you say, “I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?” **That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them;¹ who likewise upholds and governs the same by His eternal counsel and providence)² is for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father; on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt but He will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body;³ and further, that He will make whatever evils He sends upon me, in this valley of tears, turn out to my advantage;⁴ for He is able to do it, being Almighty God,⁵ and willing, being a faithful Father.⁶**

¹ Gen. 1 and 2; Ps. 33:6 ² Ps. 115:3; Matt. 10:29; Heb. 1:3; Jn 5:17

³ Jn 1:12, 16; Rom. 8:15, 16; Gal. 4:5, 6; Eph. 1:5; 1 Jn 3:1 ⁴ Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:26

⁵ Rom. 8:28; Rom. 4:21 ⁶ Rom. 10:12; Matt. 6:26; Matt. 7:9-11

*Hymn

How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

Townend

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How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders,
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Old Testament Reading

Judges 7:1-14 (ESV)

Gideon's Three Hundred Men

7 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

² The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' ³ Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

⁴ And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." ⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." ⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷ And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ⁸ So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. ¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant.

¹¹ And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp." Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp. ¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. ¹³ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat." ¹⁴ And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp."

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

All Hail the Power

arr. Shaw/Parker

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all! Crown Him ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call; Praise Him whose way of pain ye trod, And crown Him Lord of all! Let every kindred, every tribe On this terrestrial ball, To Him all Majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all! O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all

The children may dismiss for church-time programs.

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Job 3

(Pew Bible, pg. 360)

Job Laments His Birth

3 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² And Job said:

³“Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said,
‘A man is conceived.’

⁴Let that day be darkness!
May God above not seek it,
nor light shine upon it.

⁵Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.
Let clouds dwell upon it;
let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶That night—let thick darkness seize it!
Let it not rejoice among the days of the year;
let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷Behold, let that night be barren;
let no joyful cry enter it.

⁸Let those curse it who curse the day,
who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

⁹Let the stars of its dawn be dark;
let it hope for light, but have none,
nor see the eyelids of the morning,

¹⁰because it did not shut the doors of my mother’s womb,
nor hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹“Why did I not die at birth,
come out from the womb and expire?

¹²Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³For then I would have lain down and been quiet;
I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,

¹⁴with kings and counselors of the earth
who rebuilt ruins for themselves,

¹⁵or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.

¹⁶Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child,
as infants who never see the light?

¹⁷There the wicked cease from troubling,
and there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸There the prisoners are at ease together;
they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.

- ¹⁹ The small and the great are there,
and the slave is free from his master.
- ²⁰ “Why is light given to him who is in misery,
and life to the bitter in soul,
²¹ who long for death, but it comes not,
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
²² who rejoice exceedingly
and are glad when they find the grave?
²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?
²⁴ For my sighing comes instead of my bread,
and my groanings are poured out like water.
²⁵ For the thing that I fear comes upon me,
and what I dread befalls me.
²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;
I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

Sermon

“Where Is God in the Dark Night of the Soul?”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God’s grace

*Hymn No. 609

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?

Ebeling

Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near with his cheer;
never will he leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven
that God’s Son for my own
to my faith hath given?

God oft gives me days of gladness;
shall I grieve if he give
seasons, too, of sadness?
God is good and tempers ever
all my ill, and he will
wholly leave me never.

Death cannot destroy forever;
from our fears, cares, and tears
it will us deliver.
It will close life’s mournful story,
make a way that we may
enter heav’nly glory.

Lord, my Shepherd, take me to thee.
Thou art mine; I was thine,
even ere I knew thee.
I am thine, for thou hast bought me;
lost I stood, but thy blood
free salvation brought me.

Thou art mine; I love and own thee.
Light of joy, e’er shall I
from my heart dethrone thee.

Savior, let me soon behold thee
face to face; may thy grace
evermore enfold me!

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

Danish
G.F. Handel

*Those who are able, please stand.

There will be calling hours here in the sanctuary tomorrow from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon for Ivan O'Neill, son of Greg and Holly (Brown). A service will begin at noon.

Tuesday is the deadline to sign up for the youth group snow tubing trip on Friday.

Andrew Oswinkle will present a **Classical Guitar concert** at Aisquith on Sunday, March 17th at 3:00 PM. An offering will be taken.

A **new film**, Patterns of Evidence, The Moses' Controversy is coming on March 14, 16, and 18. In it the filmmaker seeks scientific evidence that Moses actually wrote the first books of the Bible. Check the website for locations and times: <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/patterns-of-evidence-the-moses-controversy>.

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:30-8:30 PM	Youth Group
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies (at the church)
	7:30 PM	Session Meeting
THURSDAY	7:30 PM	Choir practice
FRIDAY	6:30-11:00 PM	Youth Group Snow Tubing
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship

Coming Soon

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 Lenten Soup Supper and Service

**Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 3:00 PM Guitar Concert
by Andrew Oswinkle**

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

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