

The Lord's Day

October 20, 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...

Then the LORD said to [Moses], "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."
Exodus 4:10, 11 (ESV)

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 59 & 60 (ESV)

We hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom...Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you... and nations shall come to your light...but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

*Hymn No. 75

O Father, You Are Sovereign

St. Theodulph

O Father, you are sovereign in all the worlds you made;
Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
Sets stars within their courses and still the tempest's roar.

O Father, you are sovereign in all affairs of man;
No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
You hold your trusting children secure in your embrace.

O Father, you are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.
All evil over-ruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,
Your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, you are sovereign! We see you dimly now,
But soon before your triumph earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew;
Our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship you!

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalms 146

(Hymnal pg. 839)

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.
 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD, his God,
the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind,

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD.

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 5:9, 10a, 11, 12 (ESV)

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself... And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Confession Faith (unison)

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 28

What advantage is it to us to know that God has created, and by His providence doth still uphold all things? **That we may be patient in adversity; thankful in prosperity; and that in all things, which may hereafter befall us, we place our firm trust in our faithful God and Father, that nothing shall separate us from His love; since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.**

*Hymn

Holy Spirit

Getty/Townend

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
 breathe new life into my willing soul;
 Bring the presence of the Risen Lord,
 to renew my heart and make me whole.
 Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
 give me faith for what I cannot see.
 Give me passion for Your purity;
 Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
 may Your joy be seen in all I do.
 Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
 in each thought and deed and attitude.
 Kindness to the greatest and the least;
 gentleness that sows the path of peace.
 Turn my striving into works of grace;
 Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
 giving life to all that God has made.
 Show Your power once again on earth,
 cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
 Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
 lead us on the road of sacrifice,
 That in unity the face of Christ
 will be clear for all the world to see.

Old Testament Reading

Judges 18:11-31

(Pew Bible, pg. 184)

¹¹ So 600 men of the tribe of Dan, armed with weapons of war, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol, ¹² and went up and encamped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. On this account that place is called Mahaneh-dan^[camp of Dan] to this day; behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim. ¹³ And they passed on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

¹⁴ Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, “Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image? Now therefore consider what you will do.” ¹⁵ And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young Levite, at the home of Micah, and asked him about his welfare. ¹⁶ Now the 600 men of the Danites, armed with their weapons of war, stood by the entrance of the gate. ¹⁷ And the five men who had gone to scout out the land went up and entered and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war. ¹⁸ And when these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?” ¹⁹ And they said to him, “Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?” ²⁰ And the priest's heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people. ²¹ So they turned and departed, putting the little ones and the livestock and the goods in front of them. ²² When they had gone a distance from the home of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house were called out, and they overtook the people of Dan. ²³ And they shouted to the people of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, “What is the matter with you, that you come with such a company?” ²⁴ And he said, “You take my gods that I made and the priest, and go away, and what have I left? How then do you ask me, ‘What is the matter with you?’” ²⁵ And the people of Dan said to him, “Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall upon you, and you lose your life with the lives of your household.” ²⁶ Then the people of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his home.

²⁷ But the people of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest who belonged to him, and they came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. ²⁸ And there was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob. Then they rebuilt the city and lived in it. ²⁹ And they named the city Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was born to Israel; but the name of the city was Laish at the first. ³⁰ And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. ³¹ So they set up Micah's carved image that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.

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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*Hymn Book No. 32
The Adult Choir*The children may dismiss for church-time programs.***We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

John 9

(Pew Bible, pg. 758)

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "**Are we also blind?**" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Sermon

"Are We Also Blind?"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 476

The Light of the World Is Jesus

Bliss

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
the light of the world is Jesus;
like sunshine at noonday his glory shone in,
the Light of the world is Jesus.

Refrain:

***Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;
sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
once I was blind, but now I can see;
the light of the world is Jesus.***

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
the light of the world is Jesus;
we walk in the Light when we follow our Guide,
the light of the world is Jesus. [Refrain]

Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes,
the light of the world is Jesus;
go, wash at his bidding, and light will arise,
the light of the world is Jesus. [Refrain]

No need of the sunlight in heaven, we're told,
the light of the world is Jesus;
the Lamb is the Light in the City of Gold,
the light of the world is Jesus. [Refrain]

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

Danish

Postlude

*Those who are able, please stand.

Nursery Attendants: TODAY, Judi Mason; NEXT WEEK, October 27th, Janet Johnson.

Join us at 9:00 AM for Sunday School! The Adults are considering “The Biblical Response to the Social Justice Movements” led by Angela Andrade. The children also meet on the second floor.

If you would be willing to help set up for the Lord’s Supper there is a sign-up sheet for 2020 on the narthex table. If you’ve never set up before, help and directions are available.

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY 10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY 10:30 AM Ladies’ and Men’s Bible Studies (at Aisquith)
7:00 PM Ladies’ Bible Study (at Aisquith)

SATURDAY 8:00 AM All Church Work Day

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Luncheon to follow
6:00 PM Joint Reformation Day Service

Coming Soon

Sunday, October 27th 10:30 AM: Dr. D. Ralph Davis will be preaching in our morning service and at the joint Reformation Day Service at 6:00 PM here at Aisquith

Sunday, November 3rd Set your clocks BACK one hour!

Sunday, November 17th Calvin & Geeta Taylor will be with us for a luncheon and mission’s report after worship

Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor Manse: 410-444-5111
Rev. John E. Ceselsky, Assistant Pastor Cell: 410-340-4923