

# *The First Sunday of Advent*

December 1, 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...*

*Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn observed: "If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of their own heart?" One way or another, in varying ways and varying degrees, we contribute to the world's problems. Is there any hope?*

Prelude

Mr. Scott Engel

## **We praise our great God**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

In ancient times, God's people were waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah. The Lord had promised that the day would come when he would fulfill the gracious promise he had made.

**Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs!**

The gospels record how that promised Messiah came as a baby. That child grew to be a man who was fully human and yet fully divine—Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**(ALL) We light this first Advent candle in celebration of the Christ who came. We lift up our eyes and watch for that wonderful day when he will come again.**

\*Hymn No. 156

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

St. Theodulph

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord Most Holy, your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace,  
In love all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.  
Despair not, he is near you, yea, standing at the door,  
Who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.  
He comes, for men procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,  
For all God's sons securing their heritage in heaven.

\*Invocation

## **We embrace Christ our Savior**

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalm 40:11-17

(Hymnal pg. 799)

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.

**For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.**

They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

**Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.**

May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.

**May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame.**

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

**may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!"**

Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me.

**You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.**

Silent Confession of Sins

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Romans 5:12, 15-17 (ESV)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

**But the free gift is not like the trespass.**

For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

**And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin.**

For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Confession Faith (unison)

The Belgic Confession (1561), Art. 15, 17

**We believe that, through the disobedience of Adam, original sin is extended to all mankind...which produces in man all sorts of sin...and therefore is so vile and abominable in the sight of God that it is sufficient to condemn all mankind... We believe that our most gracious God, in His admirable wisdom and goodness, seeing that man had thus thrown himself into temporal and spiritual death, and made himself wholly miserable, was pleased to seek and comfort him when he trembling fled from His presence, promising him that He would give His Son, who should be made of a woman, to bruise the head of the serpent, and would make him happy.**

\*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.

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 in Word and Sacrament**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:6-21

(Pew Bible, pg. 2)

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, <sup>[to give one insight]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool<sup>[wind]</sup> of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>[singular]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you <sup>[singular]</sup> eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring <sup>[seed]</sup> and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to <sup>[shall be toward]</sup> your husband,  
but he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
 and have eaten of the tree  
 of which I commanded you,  
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’  
 cursed is the ground because of you;  
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face  
 you shall eat bread,  
 till you return to the ground,  
 for out of it you were taken;  
 for you are dust,  
 and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. [Eve sounds like the Hebrew for life-giver and resembles the word for living] <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Sermon  
 Hymn No. 421 (vv. 1, 2)

“Waiting for a Redeemer from Sin”  
*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

Pastor Bell  
 Crüger

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
 Come into the daylight’s splendor, there with joy your praises render.  
 Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;  
 He, though heav’nly high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.  
 Hasten as a bride to meet him, eagerly and gladly greet him.  
 There he stands already knocking; quickly, now, your gate unlocking,  
 Open wide the fast closed portal, saying to the Lord immortal:  
 “Come, and leave your loved one never; dwell within my heart forever.”

The Lord’s Supper

**We respond to God’s grace**

\*Hymn No. 421 (vv. 3, 4)

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

Crüger

Now in faith I humbly ponder over this surpassing wonder  
 That the bread of life is boundless though the souls it feeds are countless;  
 With the choicest wine of heaven Christ’s own blood to us is given.  
 Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation.  
 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, truest friend and dearest treasure,  
 Peace beyond all understanding, joy into all life expanding:  
 Humbly now, I bow before you, love incarnate, I adore you;  
 Worthily let me receive you, and, so favored, never leave you.

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

Danish

**Nursery Attendants:** TODAY, Janet Johnson; NEXT WEEK, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Mary Ann Kauffman.

**The Memorial Poinsettia book** is on the narthex table to sign up for Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. The cost this year is \$9.00 and the deadline is Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Christmas Card box** is on the other narthex table. Drop in your cards to your friends here at Aisquith and check the alphabetic accordion file for cards for you! Please **do not** include cards for our shut-ins. Mail them!

**Tickets for the Maryland State Boychoir *Lessons and Carols*** are available from the Boychoir office. Performances are Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM, Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM, and Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 PM. Please call 410-554-8644 for ticket information.

### **This Week at Aisquith**

**TODAY**     **10:30 AM**   **Worship and the Lord's Supper**  
**TUESDAY**   **7:00 PM**   **Ladies' Bible Study (at Aisquith)**  
**SUNDAY**     **9:00 AM**   **Sunday School**  
                   **10:30 AM**   **Worship**  
   **WIC Christmas' Tea**

### *Waiting for Redemption* 2019 Advent Series

*Celebrating Advent means learning how to wait. Waiting is an art which our impatient age has forgotten. We want to pluck the fruit before it has had time to ripen. Greedy eyes are soon disappointed when what they saw as luscious fruit is sour to the taste...the blessedness of waiting is lost on those who cannot wait, and the fulfillment of promise is never theirs. They want quick answers to the deepest questions of life and miss the value of those times of anxious waiting, seeking with patient uncertainties until the answers come.*

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Christmas Sermons**

December 1	<i>Waiting for a Redeemer from Sin</i>	Genesis 3:7-21
December 8	<i>Waiting for a Release from Slavery</i>	Exodus 1:8-14; 2:23-25
December 15	<i>Waiting for the Reconciliation of Sinners</i>	Ephesians 2:14-18
December 22	<i>Waiting for the Restoration of Sabbath</i>	Romans 8:18-25
December 29	<i>Waiting for the Return of the Savior</i>	Luke 12:35-40