

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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...

The true celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come. For those, it is enough to wait in humble fear until the Holy One himself comes down to us, God as a child in the manger. God comes. The Lord Jesus comes. Christmas comes. Christians rejoice.

Bonhoeffer

Prelude

What Child is This?

William C. Dix, arr. Jeff Bennett
Mr. Scott Engel

We praise our great God

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Christian life is full of ordinary things that together work for the extraordinary purpose of glorifying God. We rejoice in the promise of God and yet at times our hearts are sad. Even David, Israel's great king, at times was downcast and disturbed within his soul.

Why so 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!

Despite the problems we face in this world we are called to be a people of rejoicing. The Scriptures call us to "rejoice in the Lord always."

We light this third Advent Candle with rejoicing, knowing that Christ will surely come again and make all things new.

*Hymn No. 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee, his chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in my reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sins (unison)

based on Isaiah 59:2-8, 20

Holy Father in heaven, the words of your prophet Isaiah, spoken so long ago, come back to accuse us yet today. O Lord, our iniquities separate us from you. Our sins have caused you to hide your face from us. Our hands are stained, our fingers covered with guilt. Our lips have spoken lies and our tongues muttered wicked things. Our thoughts are evil, our roads are crooked, and we do not walk in peace. We do not call for justice or plead for integrity. O compassionate Lord, do not hide your face from us any longer. Hear our pleas for mercy. Redeem us by your grace and mercy. This we ask in the name of your beloved Son, even Jesus the Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22 (ESV)

“In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD your Redeemer... “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins...I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you”

Confession Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, VIII.5

The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of His Father;¹ and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given unto Him.²

¹ Rom. 5:19; Heb. 9:14, 16; 10:14; Eph. 5:2; Rom. 3:25, 26

² Dan. 9:24, 26; Col. 1:19, 20; Eph. 1:11, 14; Jn 17:2; Heb. 9:12, 15

*Hymn No. 217 (vv. 1-4, 6)

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Ebeling

All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near
Sweetest angel voices, “Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
Till the air eve’ry where now with joy is ringing.

Forth today the Conqu’ror goeth, who the foe, sin and woe,
Death and hell, o’er throweth. God is man, man to deliver;
His dear Son now is one with our blood forever.

Shall we still dread God’s displeasure, who, to save, freely gave
His most cherished Treasure? To redeem us, he hath given
His own Son from the throne of his might in heaven.

He becomes the Lamb that taketh sin away and for aye
Full atonement maketh. For our life his own he tenders;
And our race, by his grace, meet for glory renders.

Come, then, banish all your sadness, one and all, great and small;
Come with songs of gladness, Love him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.

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 First Noel* Traditional English, arr. Melody Bober

The children may dismiss for church-time programs.

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:13-18

(Pew Bible, pg. 827)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Sermon

“Waiting for the Reconciliation of Sinners”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God’s grace

*Hymn No. 203

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

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

Danish

Postlude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes, arr. Carol Tornquist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Nursery Attendants: TODAY, Judi Mason; **NEXT WEEK**, December 22nd, Shannon Bell.

We rejoice in the birth of Daniela Isabel Andrade born on Wednesday, December 4th at 8:30 AM, and also, Juniper (Junie) Mae Holmes born on Tuesday, December 10th at 9:37 PM.

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!

Offering envelopes for 2020 are on the narthex table. Numbers have changed, so look for your name! The Deacons will continue to record your contributions under the new number for 2020.

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

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY 10:30 AM Worship

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

**Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM
(cookies and punch to follow)**

*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 2:13-18
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