

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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...

Do you want the ultimate rest? Only when you see Jesus dying on the cross for your sins can you lay down the ultimate burden, of trying to prove and justify yourself, of trying to earn your self-worth and salvation. The gospel of the cross is the only true wisdom that will give you this rest.

Timothy Keller

Prelude

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hopkins Jr., arr. Bober
Mr. Scott Engel

We praise our great God

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

The whole earth is full of his glory!

When Christ was born, the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds and they were terrified. But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy."

We light this fourth Advent candle in celebration of our glorious God who sent his precious Son, revealing his glory as never before.

*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:

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sins (unison)

Church of Wales

Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart. We have not loved others as Christ loves us. We are truly sorry. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory and praise of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Confession Faith (unison)

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 52

What comfort is it to you that “Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead”? **That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before offered Himself for my sake to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven; who shall cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall translate me with all His chosen ones to Himself, into heavenly joys and glory.**

*Hymn No. 207

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Handel, arr. Bober

*The children may dismiss for church-time programs.***We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament**

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-25

(Pew Bible, pg. 800)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Sermon "Waiting for the Restoration of Sabbath" Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 195 *Joy to the World!* Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing...

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...

*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (*Hymnal*, pg. 740) Danish
Postlude *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* Tomer, arr. Tornquist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Nursery Attendants: TODAY, Shannon Bell; NEXT WEEK, December 29th, Karen Wallace.

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.

Our Christmas Offering will go to the Presbyterian Church in America's Ministerial Relief Fund which is used to assist the widows and orphans of PCA ministers and missionaries as well as retired ministers who are in financial need. Use your "Christmas" envelope or write "Christmas" on a pink pew envelope for you gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

This Week at Aisquith

TODAY 10:30 AM Worship
TUESDAY 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
(cookies and punch to follow)
SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

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