

The Lord's Day

December 29, 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...

Sigh and long for the dawning of that morning, and the breaking of that day of the coming of the Son of Man, when the shadows shall flee away.

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

Prelude

Mr. Scott Engel

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight; behold, he is coming, rejoice greatly, shout in triumph!

Our king is coming! He is the righteous Savior. He shall speak peace unto the nations.

The morning sun from heaven shall rise upon us, to shine on those who live in darkness under the shadow of death.

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Hymn No. 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the King of angels:

***O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of hea'v above;
glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sins and Assurance of Pardon (unison)

Almighty God, we bow before you and before your Son, our Savior, Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We rejoice in the light that he has brought into the world—into our own hearts—and we carry on the song that the angels sang as they announced his birth: “Glory to God in the highest!” But as we lift our voices in praise, we also bow our hearts in confession. It was for our sin that Jesus came. God, the Son, emptied himself of his divine privileges and took upon himself our humanity.

He delivered us from the bondage of sin and gave us new hope. It is God with us—Emmanuel—who makes us what he would have us to be. The joyous announcement that we now bring to the world is that proclamation that God and sinners have been reconciled; the Prince of Peace has come! We lift our hearts! We lift up our voices! We rejoice because Jesus is our Lord and King! Amen.

Confession Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXIII.3

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity; so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

*Hymn No. 226

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradlebed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 12:35-40

(Pew Bible, pg. 737)

You Must Be Ready

³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at

what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Sermon

“*Waiting for the Return of the Savior*”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God’s grace

*Hymn No. 540

A Few More Years Shall Roll

Leominster

A few more years shall roll, a few more seasons come,
And we shall be with those that rest asleep within the tomb:
Then, O my Lord, prepare My soul for that great day;
O wash me in Thy precious blood, And take my sins away.

A few more storms shall beat on this wild rocky shore,
And we shall be where tempests cease, and surges swell no more:
Then, O my Lord, prepare My soul for that calm day;
O wash me in Thy precious blood, And take my sins away.

A few more Sabbaths here shall cheer us on our way,
And we shall reach the endless rest, the eternal Sabbath-day:
Then, O my Lord, prepare My soul for that sweet day;
O wash me in Thy precious blood, And take my sins away.

“Tis but a little while, and He shall come again
Who died that we might live, who lives that we with Him may reign:
Then, O my Lord, prepare My soul for that glad day;
O wash me in Thy precious blood, And take my sins away.

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

Danish

*Those who are able, please stand.

Nursery Attendants: TODAY, Karen Wallace; **NEXT WEEK**, January 5, Christine Clark.

Please check the narthex table for your Christmas Cards!

Offering envelopes for 2020 are also 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
SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship and the Lord’s
Supper

Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor

Manse: 410-444-5111

Rev. John E. Ceselsky, Assistant Pastor

Cell: 410-340-4923