

## *The Lord's Day*

December 27, 2020 at 10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.  
As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.  
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.*

### **We prepare for worship**

*Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

*Isaiah 9:6, 7 (ESV)*

Prelude

Dr. Josh Perry-Parrish

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

### **We praise our great God**

Call to Worship

(based on James 1:17, Old, *Leading in Prayer*)

Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift. Your name is holy and wondrous altogether. Father of lights, changeless in your mercy, invariable in your grace. Your name is glorious and blessed altogether. Receive us in Christ, the Light of the world, God of God, Light of light, very God of very God. Bring us into your presence, that we might become radiant in your service, lights in this world, reflecting the light of eternity. To you be all radiance, O Father of lights, O Son, Light of light, O Spirit, burning fire within our hearts. One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn No. 214

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Traditional French melody

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

### ***Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

Invocation

### **We embrace Christ our Savior**

Confession of Sin (**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.**

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:9, 10 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

The Belgic Confession, Art. 18

**We confess that God did fulfill the promise which He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets when He sent into the world, at the time appointed by Him, His own only-begotten and eternal Son, *who took upon Him the form of a servant, and became like unto man*, really assuming the true human nature, with all its infirmities, sin excepted, being conceived in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without the means of man; and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that he might be a real man. For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should take both upon Him, to save both.**

Hymn No. 223

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Christmas

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he — for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind —  
“glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

“To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,  
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:

“The heav’nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:  
good will henceforth, from heav’n to men, begin and never cease, begin and never cease!”

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

**We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-23 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Sermon

"The Triumph of Grace over a Righteous Cause"

Pastor Bell

**We respond to God's grace**

Hymn No. 213

*What Child Is This*

Greensleeves

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

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

Danish

Postlude

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**We Welcome and Thank** Dr. Josh Perry-Parrish for providing the musical accompaniment today.

**This is what to do** if there is fresh snow or ice when you wake up on a Sunday morning. The decision on whether to have church will be made by 8 AM. Cancellation announcements will be posted on the church answering machine and on our website ([www.aisquith.org](http://www.aisquith.org)). We will also send out an email blast to those of you who are on the list. In addition, you may call one of the pastors or elders. Our decision will be based primarily on road conditions and the availability of parking. Don't assume, check! If you have any questions please speak to one of the elders.