

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

Psalter Reading

Psalms 25:1-11 (ESV)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.
Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,
but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.
Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.
For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Assurance of Pardon (**responsive**)

Romans 10:9-13 (ESV)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him."
For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 36

Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?
The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, for ever.

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.

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

Offertory

Jesus Is Lord

Getty/Townend
Jeff Soule, Soloist

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Joshua 2:1-24; 6:17-25 (ESV)

2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” ¹⁴ And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go

your way.”¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear.”¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.”²¹ And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

²² They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing.²³ Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them.²⁴ And they said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us.”

6:17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.¹⁸ But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it.¹⁹ But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.”²⁰ So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.²¹ Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

²² But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.”²³ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel.²⁴ And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.²⁵ But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Sermon

“The Triumph of Faith over a Fatal Pronouncement”

Pastor Bell

Hymn No. 429 (vv. 1, 2)

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Crüger

Let thy blood in mercy poured, let thy gracious body broken,
Be to me, O gracious Lord, of thy boundless love the token.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Thou didst die that I might live; blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me;
All that love of God could give, Jesus by his sorrow gave me.

The Lord's Supper

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 429 (vv. 3, 4)

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Crüger

By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear wound and the nailing,
By the pain and death I now claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my penitence I give thee;
Thou art my exalted King, of thy matchless love unfailing.

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

Danish

Postlude

Improvisation on *Redeemed, How I Love To Proclaim It*

Arr. K. Dean

A congregational meeting is hereby called for TODAY immediately following the worship service. The purposes of this meeting are to (1) vote on a dissolution of the Pastoral Relation between the congregation of Aisquith and Pastor Bell (per his announced retirement on December 31, 2021); (2) to consider and vote upon the Session's recommendation for the congregation to call Pastor Bell as it's Pastor Emeritus beginning January 1, 2022; (3) to consider and vote upon the Session's recommendation for the congregation to call Pastor Ceselsky to serve as Interim Pastor beginning January 1, 2022; and (4) to create a pulpit committee to make recommendations to the congregation for a future call to a Pastor.

We will have a Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24 at 7 PM!

Poinsettias for Christmas can be ordered by signing up in the book in the narthex, or by emailing Pastor Ceselsky. The cost is \$9 per plant – please use the pink envelopes in the narthex and label the envelope for “flowers.” TODAY is the deadline to order plants.

Pledge cards for 2022 are in the narthex. Please consider filling out a pledge card and placing it in the offering plate. These greatly assist the Session in preparing the budget for the coming year.

Officer Nominations for Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses can be made by submitting names to either John Cicone (Clerk of Session) or Pastor Ceselsky.

Funds are Needed for the Tiemann Music Fund: With the holidays coming and the mask mandate likely to remain in place, we cannot have a choir. Dr. Dean would therefore like to enhance our worship with soloists and musicians. If you are able to give to this fund, please use one of the pink envelopes and label it “Tiemann Music Fund.”

We are still collecting used inkjet cartridges. There is a box in the kitchen labeled for the donations.