

The Lord's Day

December 26, 2021 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...

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The First Sunday after Christmas, The Book of Common Prayer

Prelude

Etude in G

John Behnke
The Aisquith Handbell Choir
Dr. Kenneth Dean, Director of Music

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

Pastor Ceselsky

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth peace for those on whom his favor rests.

In the tender compassion of our God, the morning sun has risen upon us who lived in darkness.

The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us, and we have seen his glory.

Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

To us a child is born, to us a son is given. Alleluia!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Hymn No. 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

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...

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 (**responsive**)

Galatians 3:29; 4:3-7 (ESV)

And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. . .

In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,

so that we might receive adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 27

Wherein did Christ’s humiliation consist?

Christ’s humiliation consisted in His being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Hymn No. 230

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

French carol melody

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav’ward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man;

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy
The Aisquith Handbell Choir

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:21-40 (ESV)

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

"Simeon's Song"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

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 cradle bed,
 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.

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

Danish

Postlude

Joy The World! The Lord Has Come

Antioch

We thank the Bell Choir for their participation in worship this morning and for all of their hard work. If you are interested in joining the choir, please talk to Dr. Dean.

Sunday School will not meet the next Sunday, January 2 – Please rejoin us in the New Year!

Please Join Us in celebrating Pastor Bell's retirement at an Open House on Saturday, January 8, 2022 (weather make-up date is Saturday, January 15) from 1 PM to 6 PM. This celebration will take place at their new home – 2220 Benson Mill Road, Sparks, MD 21152. If you need transportation please contact Pastor Ceselsky and we will help you line up a ride.

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