

The Lord's Day

July 24, 2022 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...

Only when we stand on the high mountain of faith are we able see the Church as it exists ideally. William Hendriksen

Prelude *There Is a Higher Throne* Getty

There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace; Salvation comes.

**Hear heaven's voices sing; Their thund'rous anthems ring
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies; Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks and honor are to God,
Our King who reigns on high forevermore.**

And there we'll find our home; Our life before the throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb become our Shepherd King; We'll reign with Him.

Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr., Director of Music Ministries

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship Psalm 87:1-3

¹ On the holy mount stands the city he founded;
² the Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.
³ Glorious things of you are spoken,
O city of God.

Invocation

Hymn No 345 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* Austrian Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,

Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near:
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 83 (edited)

Q. 83 What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible such enjoy in this life?

The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the firstfruits of glory with Christ, as they are members of him their head, and so in him are interested that glory which he is fully possessed of; and, as an earnest thereof, enjoy the sense of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory.

Corporate Confession of Sin (unison)

based upon Philippians 3:18-21

Heavenly Father, with tears of confession, we acknowledge that we regularly walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. We long to fill the appetites of our flesh and we glory in that which we should be ashamed. Our minds are frequently set on the things of this world. We often live as if our true citizenship is of this world and not of heaven. At the same time, we grow impatient as we await the glorious return of our Christ our Savior and Lord. Heavenly Father, forgive us in the name of Christ Jesus, the one who will transform our lowly bodies of sin to be like his glorious body as he subjects all things to himself.

Individual Confession of Sin

Assurance of God's Grace

Hebrews 12:22-24a

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to [His] sprinkled blood.

Hymn No. 44

How Great Thou Art

O Store Gud

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r thro' out the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art! (2x)*

When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountains grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

We acknowledge God's blessings

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

RE John Cicone

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Jesus My Treasure (Calon Lan)

John Hughes

Soloist: Rev. Stuart Jones, tenor

I seek not life's ease and pleasures, earthly riches, pearls, nor gold; Jesus is my greatest treasure, He alone can make me whole. **Christ my Savior flows with goodness, fairer than the lily bright; Jesus' love is ever bringing, songs of joy, both day and night.** If I cherish earthly treasures, swift they flee and all is vain; Christ's, communion is my comfort, His cross covers all my shame.

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:9-27

Pew Bible pg. 1041

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—¹³ on the east three gates, on the north

three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Sermon

“The New Jerusalem – Part 1”

Pastor Ceselsky

Sermon Outline can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

We respond to God's grace

Hymn No. 444

O Zion, Haste, Your Mission High Fulfilling

Tidings

O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is light;
That he who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Behold how many thousands still are lying bound in the darksome prison-house of sin,
With none to tell them of the Savior's dying, or of the life he died for them to win.

Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation, and died on earth that man might live above.

Give of your sons to bear the message glorious; give of your wealth to speed them on their way;
Pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious; and all your spending Jesus will repay.

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

Danish

Postlude

Reprise- Austrian Tune: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken F.J. Haydn (arr. K. Dean)

Announcements

We thank Rev. Stuart Jones for singing the Offertory this morning.

The Tuesday Morning Book Club will be changing their meeting time from 10 am to 10:30 am – please take note of this change.

Donations are needed for our Facilities Fund. We are currently running a deficit in our Facilities Fund of just over \$4,000 and we have several important repairs and updates to make. If you are able to give to this fund, it will be greatly appreciated.

We will be Commissioning John & Gwen Cicone on Sunday, August 7 during our worship service. Following the service, we will be hosting a fellowship luncheon to spend time with them as a church family.

We will be baptizing Damian Andrade on Sunday, August 28. The congregation is invited to a lunch to follow but please rsvp to Angela so that she can plan accordingly.

The Women's Bible Study will begin studying The Gospel of Luke at 10:30 am on Wednesday, September 28. Please let Julie Ceselsky know if you are interested in attending no later than Sunday, August 14 so that she can order and distribute the study materials.

The Balcony remains closed as the deacons are performing some much-needed repairs.

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

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to be in prayer for John & Gwen Cicone as they complete their plans to move and serve the Lord with the Rafiki Foundation in Tanzania.
2. Please continue to be in prayer for RE Mark Werner as he recovers from surgery.
3. Please continue to be in prayer for Maise Manning's daughter, Yvonne, as she continues to battle medical conditions in Jamaica.
4. Please continue to be in prayer for Sarah Walters (Soule) and her husband Matthew as they await the birth of their first child in August.
5. Please be in prayer for the many members, family members and friends of the Aisquith Community who currently struggling various illnesses and other physical and emotional issues.

Church Officers

Ruling Elders: John Cicone (Clerk), Jeff Soule & Mark Werner

Deacons: Andrew Bell, Gus DeFord, & Ken Schumann (President)

Deaconesses: Christine Clark, Debbie DeFord, Fran Oswinkle, & Jeanne Williams (Moderator)

Sermon Notes

Date: July 24, 2022

Text: Revelation 21:9-27

Sermon Title: "The New Jerusalem – Part 1"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: The Christian Longs for the city of God – the New Jerusalem – Home.

Main Point 1: A Revealed City

Point 1: An Angel (vv. 9,10)

Point 2: Mountain (v. 10)

Main Point 2: An Anti-World City

Main Point 3: A Pure City

Point 1: The Glory of God (vv. 11,23)

Point 2: Perfect Cube (v. 16)

Point 3: Pure/Transparent Nature of the City (vv. 11,21)

Point 4: Noting Impure (v. 27)