



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! Thank you for joining us. We are here to commune together with the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "Worship is the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's communion with the Father" (J. B. Torrance; see Jn. 4:23-24; Eph. 2:18; 1 Jn. 1:3). We hope that you will hear clearly the Gospel, or Good News, about Jesus Christ, through whom we know God. We also hope that love and grace will characterize everything we do here. If you have children age three and under, you may use the nursery next door to the sanctuary, or keep them with you if you prefer. Please stay for refreshments and conversation after the service. We would be happy to field questions you might have about the faith or our church. (Visit ascensionpc.org/worship to learn more about our Worship.)

Please silence your electronic devices.

WORSHIP • MAY 11, 2014



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 106:1

Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

The Triune God is a singing God (Zeph. 3:14-17)! So it is fitting to respond to him with **singing...**

And Can It Be?

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Thomas Campbell • Public Domain



And can it be that I _____ should _____ gain an
'Tis mys - tery all: th'Im - mor - tal _____ dies: who
Long my im - pri - soned spi - rit _____ lay, fast
5 No con - dem - na - tion now _____ I _____ dread; Je -



in - t'rest _____ in the _____ Sav - ior's blood? Died he for
can _____ ex - plore His strange de - sign? In vain the
bound _____ in _____ sin and _____ na - ture's night, Thine eye dif -
10 sus _____ and _____ all in _____ Him, is mine; A - live in



me, _____ who caused his pain? For me, _____ who him _____ to
first - born ser - aph tries to sound _____ the depths _____ of
fused _____ a quick - ening ray; I woke, _____ the dung - eon
15 Him, _____ my liv - ing Head, and clothed _____ in right - eous -



death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love! How _____ can _____ it _____
love de - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let _____ earth _____ a -
flamed with light; My chains fell off, my _____ heart _____ was _____
20 ness di - vine, Bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal _____



be _____ that thou _____ my God, _____ shouldst die _____ for
dore, _____ let an - gel minds _____ in - quire _____ no
free, _____ I rose, _____ went forth, _____ and fol - lowed
24 throne, _____ and claim _____ the crown, _____ through Christ _____ my



me? A - maz - ing love! How can it be that
more.
Thee.
29 own.



thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 24:46-47

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations."

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him, all creatures here below!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 24

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

There is a sense in which all of Worship is **prayer**, a divine-human conversation.

It is actually God's *gracious* initiation in **calling us to confession** that enables us to do so (Lk. 5:1-11; Rom. 2:4). If not for the assurance of his love, we all would try to hide or deny our true guilt, for fear of his righteous anger. We cannot hide from God (Heb. 4:12-13), but the Good News is that we don't have to!

In Christ, we are free to be honest about who we are and to admit what we have done as rebels in God's sight. We **confess our sin** and our utter need for God's mercy and grace through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our reconciliation to God.

Because of what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, **we are assured that all our sins have been forgiven**. Our relationship with God has been completely restored forever! For many reasons, we need to be reminded of this Good News often.

Our grateful, joyful, loving response to our Savior is the giving of our very selves to him (Rom. 12:1). Our **Offering** is a real token of this (1 Cor. 16:1-2). And the **Doxology** gives expression to our new desire to praise him (Ps. 100).

As **God speaks to us**, we listen attentively with thanksgiving.

Because God is a Trinity—a Being in communion and dialogue—God is a God of **prayer**. While he was on earth, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was constantly praying to his Father, and he taught his disciples how to pray (Mt. 6:5-15; Lk. 11:1-13). And, now that Jesus has ascended into heaven, he continues to pray for his people (Heb. 7:25).

So we often pray together in the way Jesus taught us, using “The Lord’s Prayer.” We pray to God as our Father! We pray according to Jesus’ will, and in his name (Jn 14:13). We pray for all kinds of people (1 Tim. 2:1-8), especially for the work of the Gospel in the world and in the church.

Visit ascensionpc.org/sermons/the-lords-prayer to learn more about prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as the King of kings and the Lord of lords:

We pray for our leaders, near and far, that they might love justice and mercy; we pray for our local leaders, that they might promote the peace of the city.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death in triumph over evil and oppression:

We ask you to restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law; we ask you to destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as the Prince of peace:

We pray for peace between nations in your world; we pray that this congregation might live in your peace together; we ask you to come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death to reconcile us to God:

We pray for our friends who do not yet know you; we pray for the deepening of our faith in the Gospel of grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death to reveal life and immortality through the gospel:

We pray for comfort for those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, and in injustice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as our sympathetic High Priest:

Please hear us as we bring you our requests. (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

The Valley May Be Dark

Text & Music: Wesley Randolph Eader • ©2014 Door of Hope

Adams shadow, it was casted.
How it covered the land.
Out from Eden it descended,
now to land on guilty hands.

The Laws of Moses, they were roaring
in the face of sinful man.
The sacrifices they would offer
could never meet its great demands.

(Refrain)

*And that valley may be dark (may be dark)
over all the earth extended,
but the love (but the love) of God is brighter (of God is brighter)
and its path cannot be bended.
Yes it hits (yes it hits) the sinner's heart (the sinner's heart),
turns their sorrows into laughter.
And with joy (and with joy) they will dance (they will dance)
up the mount of the redeemed.*

Prophets came and prophets went,
and their message was the same.
A Messiah would soon be coming
for the wandering souls to save.

(Refrain)

One last prophet came from the deserts
to announce the Lamb of God.
John would baptize with streams of Jordan,
Christ would baptize with streams of life.

(Refrain)

In Christ Alone

Text & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend • ©2001 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It consists of ten staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14. The lyrics describe the incarnation of Christ and His resurrection, emphasizing His power over death and sin.

In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful - ness of
3 There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the
light, my strength, — my song; — This Cor - ner -
God in help - less babe! — This gift of
5 world by dark - ness slain: — Then burst - ing
stone, this so - lid ground. firm through the
love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
7 forth in glor - ious day up from the
fier - cest drought — and storm. — What heights of
ones he came — to save: — 'Till on that
9 grave He rose — a - gain! — And as He
love, what depths of peace — when fears are
cross as Je - sus died, — the wrath of
11 stands in vic - to - ry — sin's curse has
stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sa - tis - fied. — For ev - 'ry sin on Him was
14 lost its grip on me, — for I am His and He is
all, here in the love of Christ — I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ — I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood — of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
'till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

GOSPEL READING • Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “The Ascended One” (Rev. Eric Costa)

The Word of God is one of the chief Elements of our Worship. God reveals himself to us in the word of his grace (Acts 20:32) for our relationship and life with him. If he did not do this, we would have no hope of knowing him as he truly is, and no hope of our salvation.

But God loves us, so he sent his Son, the Word of God himself, into the world to make himself known to us (Jn. 1:1-18). God's Spirit inspired the written Word that we have in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). And God has called teachers to build up his people in his Word for love and service (Eph. 4:11-16).

God is a speaking God, and his Word to us is Good News (Rom. 15:4). It is a “Means of Grace” that he uses, by his Spirit, to grow us in our faith. We listen in prayerful anticipation of his good work in our lives.





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

(Greet with the words, “*The peace of Christ be with you.*”)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE AND PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE MYSTERIUM FIDEI

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

The gifts of God for the people of God.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

We respond to the Gospel with trust in God and in his work for us in Jesus Christ. We join with the Church throughout history and around the world as we publicly **confess faith** in Christ (Mt. 10:32).

Just as we are united to Jesus by faith, we are also united to one another in his Spirit (Eph. 2:11-22). We maintain and show our unity as we **share his peace** (Eph. 4:3).

The Lord’s Supper (also called Communion or the Eucharist) is the high point of Worship. Communion with God is the whole purpose of our creation and salvation in Christ.

All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God’s grace to live more faithfully for him in this world.

Please come forward after the musicians. The cup with the ribbon contains grape juice for those who do not want wine. We partake by intinction; we dip the bread into the cup.

I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord

Text: Brian Wren • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

I come with joy to meet
I come with Chris - - - tians far
As Christ breaks bread and bids
my Lord, for - giv - en, loved and free; in awe
and near to find as all are fed, the new
us share, each proud di - vi - sion - ends; the love
and won - der to re - call His life laid down for
com - mu - ni - ty of love in Christ's com - mu - nion
that made us makes us one, and strang - ers now are
me. His name is Je - - - sus! A sac -
bread.
friends.
ri - fice of love, I owe Him ev - - - ery
thing, my life, my all.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways;
and as His people in the world, we'll live and speak His praise.
His name is Jesus! A sacrifice of love, I owe Him everything, my life, my all.

It Is Well With My Soul

Text: Horatio G. Spafford • Music: Phillip P. Bliss • Public Domain

Tenor

8
When peace, like a riv - er, at -
Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though
3
My sin, O the bliss of this
8
tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like sea bil - lows
tri - als should come, let this blest as - sur - ance con -
7
glo - ri - ous thought! My sin, not in part, but the
8
roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
11
whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
8
say, "It is well, it is well with my soul. It is
tate, and has shed His own blood for my soul.
15
more; Praise the Lord! It is well with my soul!
8
well... with my soul; it is well, it is well with my
21
8
soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul!
It is well, with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul!

God has the final word as he sends us out into the world with his **blessing.**

BENEDICTION • Psalm 20:1-2, 4

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary
and give you support from Zion!
May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!

~

Sunday School • Please join us after Worship. Children gather for singing before going to their classes. Adults will have sermon discussion in the fellowship hall (young children are welcome). Contact: Suzanne Ryerson (sooozanne@gmail.com).

Moms' Group • Contact: Sara Sery (503-327-4232).

- 10am Wed., May 21 at Shute Park

Visit Christ Central • 5pm Sun., May 18 at 1677 SW 35th Street, Corvallis. Contact: Brian Friesen (friesen.bk@gmail.com).

Church Campout • Aug. 22-24 at Nehalem Bay State Park. Contact: Tim Sery (the.serys@gmail.com).

Nursery Volunteers • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Today: Friesen

Next Week: Hamilton

Regular Gatherings • For information about our meetings like home groups and bible studies for men and women, visit ascensionpc.org/calendar.



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Worship • 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro • ascensionpc.org

(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)

Name(s)

Email / Phone

I am a visitor.

I want to know more about being a Christian.

I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.

Please send me the email newsletter.

Please use this info for the photo directory.