

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 • JULY 6, 2014



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 147:1-6

Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

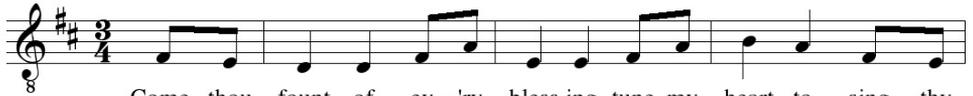
The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

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...**

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Text: Robert Robinson (1758) • Music: Asahel Nettleton (1825) • Public Domain



Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing tune my heart to sing thy
Here I raise my Eb-en-e-zer; hith-er by thy help I'm
O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to



grace; streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for
come; and I hope, by thy good pleas-ure, safe-ly
be; Let that grace, now, like a fet-ter, bind my



songs of loud-est praise. Teach me__ some me-lo-dious
to ar-rive at home. Je-sus__ sought me when a
wand'-ring heart to thee. Prone to__ wand-er-Lord, I



son-net, sung by__ flam-ing tongues a-bove; praise the
strang-er, wan-d'ring__ from the fold of God: he, to
feel__ it-prone to__ leave the God I love: Here's my



mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights; I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I am blind while the light shines around me: take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John on your breast, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things but dung. I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

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

OFFERING • Ephesians 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 • Genesis 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

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...

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,

We ask for grace and wisdom.

For those who don’t yet believe the gospel,

We ask for your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask for your guidance.

For people who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words He taught us, saying:

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.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of six staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look to see Him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The Great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood,
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God.

The Children's Song

Text & Music: Josh Garrels • ©2014 Door of Hope

Down on my knees, praying please have mercy now.
Christ my shelter in a world that tries to drag me down.

Open your heart, open your mind, open up your soul.
Jesus come in, and make a broken man whole.

Carry the cross, carry the pain, carry the love.
We don't belong here, but to the Father above.

Jesus in heaven and Jesus in hell below,
paid for our sin, broken body with the red blood flows.

Rise up in glory, you raise your hands to the risen King.
He's God Almighty, listen to his children:

Alleluia to our King!
Alleluia, Ruler over everything!

In this world you will have trouble.
But Jesus overcame the world.
And our body is his temple,
and we will worship forevermore.

Alleluia to our King!
Alleluia, Ruler over everything!

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

The Word of the Lord.

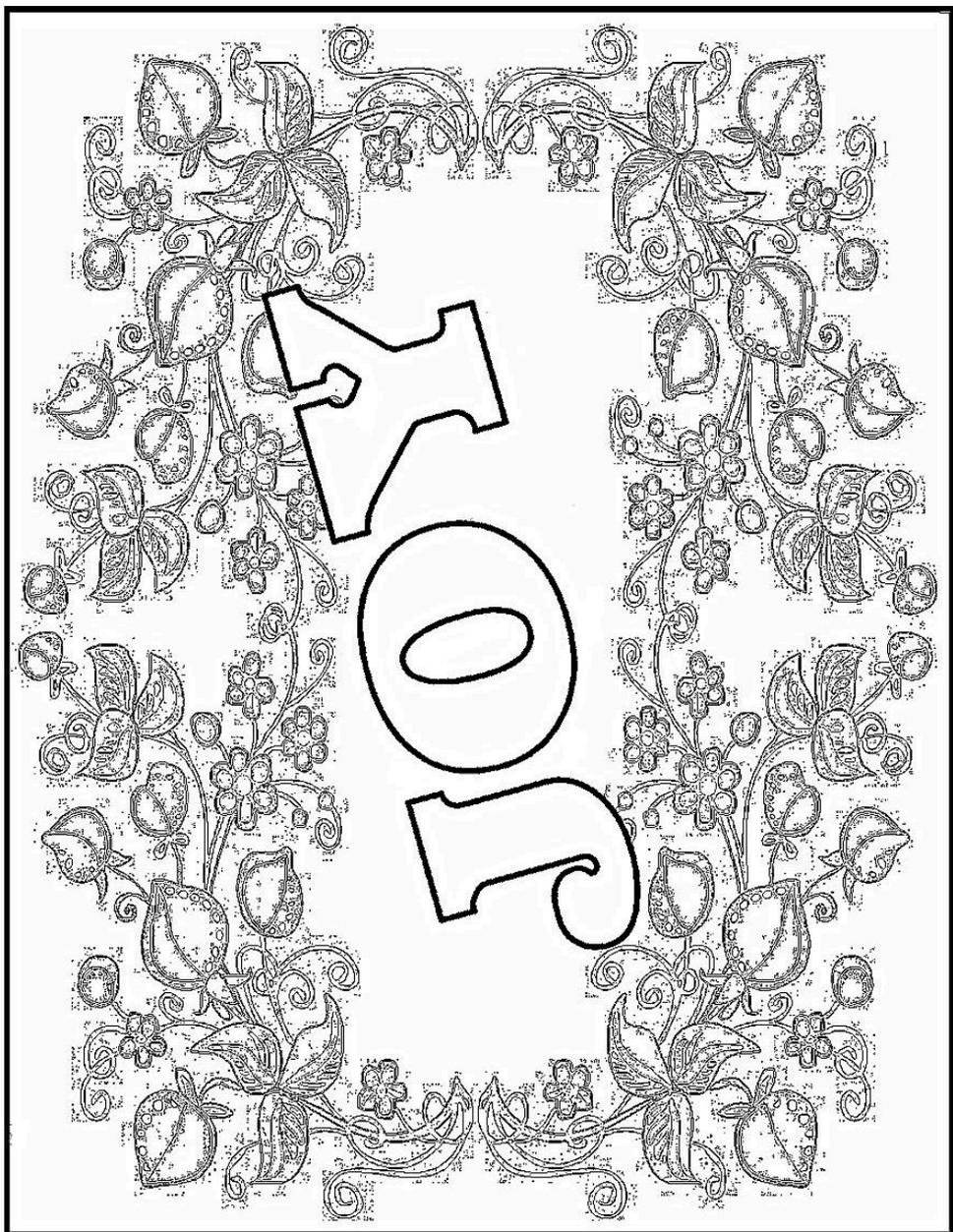
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Assurance And Joy” (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 Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

¹ Or “universal.”

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)

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Text: Samuel Stennett • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1997 Christopher Miner

Tenor

On Jor-dan's stor - my banks I stand, and cast a wish - ful
eye; To Can-aan's fair and hap - py land, where my pos-se - sions
lie. O'er all those wide ex - ten - ded plains, shines
chil - ling winds or poi - son breath, can
one et - er - nal day; There God the Son_ for -
reach that health - ful shore; Where sick - ness, sor - row,
ev - er reigns, and scat-ters night a - way. I am bound, I am
pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
bound, I am bound for the prom-ised land!_ I am bound, I am
bound, I am bound for the prom - ised land!_ No

When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blessed;
For I shall see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest.
(Chorus)

Filled with delight my raptured soul would here no longer stay;
Though Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless I'd launch away.
(Chorus)

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

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

Mercy Sunday • Today: *Almsgiving* during Communion.

Summer BBQ • Today after Worship at the Manary home.

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

- 10am Tue., July 15 at Rood Bridge Park.
- 10am Tue., July 29 at Magnolia Park.
- 10am Tue., Aug. 12 at 53rd Ave. Community Park.
- 10am Tue., Aug. 26 at the Progress Ridge Fountain.

Stoms Family Send-Off • 10:30am Sat., July 19 at Evergreen PCA in Beaverton. The Stoms are a missionary family returning to Africa in September. Come learn about their ministry.

Summer Picnic in the Park • July 20 at the Walnut Street Park. (Bring swimsuits for the kids!)

Women's Summer Study • 7pm Tuesdays at the Ryerson home. Contact: Larissa Friesen (larissaelaborates@gmail.com).

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

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

Today: Aznoe 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)

- 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.

Email / Phone