

ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! Thank you for joining us. We are here for fellowship with the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and with each other (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 • September 7, 2014



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

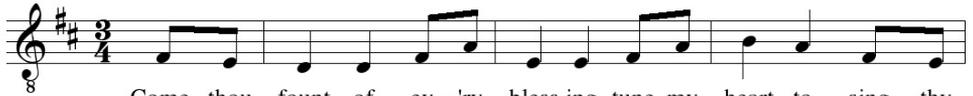
The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

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 • Genesis 3:7-9

The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Genesis 3:21

The LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

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

OFFERING • Matthew 10:8

"Freely you have received. Freely give."

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 27

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...

You are God.

We praise you!

You are the Lord.

We acclaim you!

You are the eternal Father.

All creation worships you!

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might, Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!*

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free,
you did not shun the Virgin’s womb.
*You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.*

You are seated at God’s right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

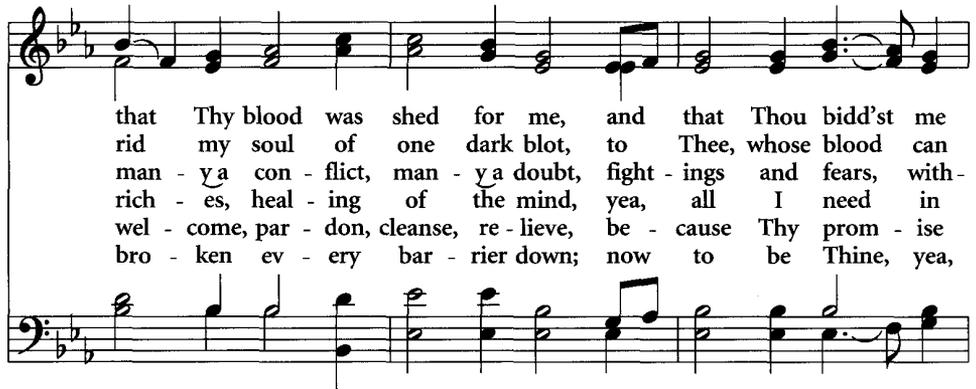
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.
Amen.

Just As I Am

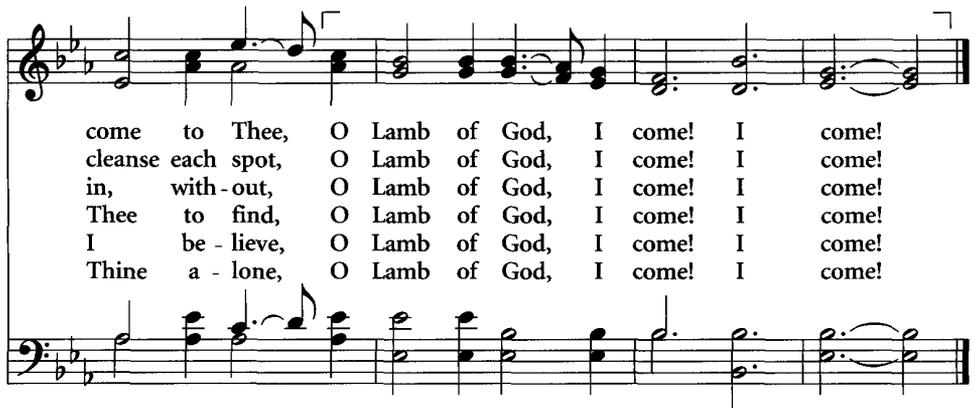
Text: Charlotte Elliott • Music: William Bradbury • Public Domain



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to
3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with
4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight,
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, wilt
6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known hath



that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidd'st me
rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee, whose blood can
man - ya con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears, with -
rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in
wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause Thy prom - ise
bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be Thine, yea,



come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

A Hymn To God The Father

A Poem by John Donne • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

Wilt Thou for - give that sin where I be - gun, which
5 was my sin, though it were done be - fore? Wilt Thou for -
10 give that sin through which I run, and do run still, though
15 still I do de - plore? When Thou hast
19 done, — Thou hast not done, — for I have more, — I have
25 more. When Thou hast done, — Thou hast not done,
30 — for I have more, — I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
a year or two, but wallow'd in a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more, I have more. (2x)

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
but swear by thyself, that at my death thy sun
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.

And, having done that, thou hast done.
I fear no more. I fear no more. (2x)

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 John 2:28 – 3:3

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

^{3:1} See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Behold The Love Of God” (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



VOWS FOR INFANT BAPTISM

Zoe Dorothea Whipple

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
 2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
 3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
- * *Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?*

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.

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?

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

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

Tenor

8 On Jor-dan's stor - my banks I stand, and cast a wish - ful
4 eye; To Can-aan's fair and hap - py land, where my pos-se - sions
8 lie. O'er all those wide ex - ten - ded plains, shines
11 chil - ling winds or poi - son breath, can
8 one et - er - nal day; There God the Son_ for -
14 reach that health - ful shore; Where sick - ness, sor - row,
8 ev - er reigns, and scat-ters night a - way. I am bound, I am
18 pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
8 bound, I am bound for the prom-ised land!_ I am bound, I am
22 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.

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 • Jude 1-2

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

~

Mercy Sunday • Today... On the first Sunday of each month we collect a special offering—*Alms*—during the Lord’s Supper, to help meet needs in our congregation and community. After Worship we engage together in a ministry of compassion—the *Backpack Project*—providing food to children in need at W. L. Henry Elementary School (this is an easy ministry for the children of the church to participate in).

Informational Meeting • Today after Worship and the Backpack Project... Join us for a conversation about leadership training and officer nominations.

Sunday School • On Sept. 14 we’ll start classes for children (and Sermon Discussion for adults). Contact: Joe Pope (joepope@comcast.net).

Home Groups • On the second Sunday of each month Joe & Cindy Pope will host a lunch gathering to discuss “The Gospel-Centered Life.” On the fourth Sunday of each month Eric & Jerilee Costa will host a lunch gathering to discuss “Generous Justice.”

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

- 10am Tue., Sept. 9 at Waterhouse Lake (park in an uncovered spot in the apartments at 16085 NW Schendel Ave., Beaverton)
- 10am Tue., Sept. 30 at the home of Jerilee Costa (lunch will be provided)
- 10am Wed., Oct. 15 at the home of Kristine Manary (lunch will be provided)

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

Today: Friesen Next Sunday: 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