

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 21, 2014



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • 1 Chronicles 16:8-11

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

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...**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of six staves of music in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.' The music is written in a simple, clear style with a few accidentals (sharps and naturals).

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Exodus 20:2-3

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Exodus 34:6-7

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty."

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.*

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 4:1-12

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."
² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

(Elder prays)

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

*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.*

What Wondrous Love Is This

Text: American Folk Hymn • Music: Southern Harmony • Public Domain



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
2 When I was sin-king down, sin-king down, sin-king
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won-drous love is this, O my soul! What
down, when I was sin-king down, sin-king down; ___ when
sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing! ___ To
on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! ___ And



won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
I was sin-king down be - neath God's right eous frown, Christ
God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while
when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and



bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing, while mil lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

To You, O Lord, I Lift My Eyes

Text: Psalm 123 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor



8
To You, O Lord, I lift my eyes,
4
O Lord our God, Your mer-cy show,
7
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.
For hu - man pride and scorn we know.
8
As ser - vants
10
Re - proach and
8
watch their mas - ter's hand, Or
13
shame your saints en - dure, From
8
maid - ens by their mis - tress stand,
16
sin - ners who ap - pear se - cure.
8
So to the Lord our eyes we raise,
20
To You O Lord, I lift my eyes,
8
Un - til His mer - cy He dis - plays.
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 John 3:11-18

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "True Love" (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).

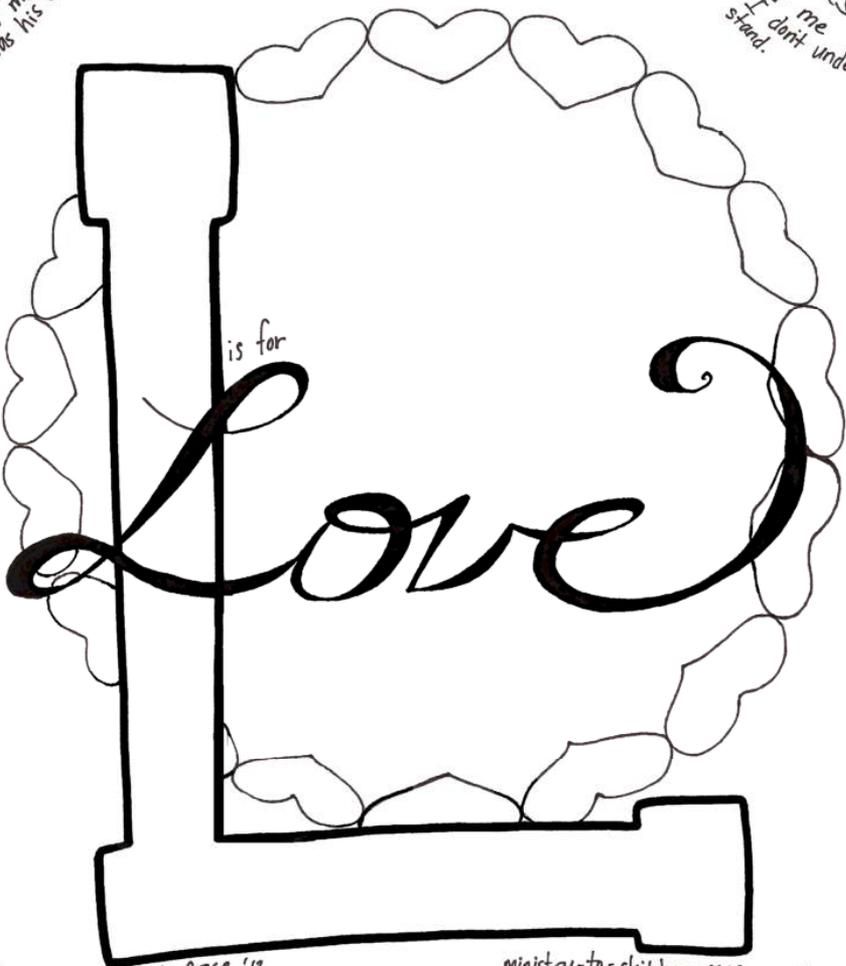
God is a speaking God, and his Word to us is Good News (Rom. 15:4). It is a "Means of Grace" that he uses, by his Spirit, to grow us in our faith. We listen in prayerful anticipation of his good work in our lives.



He loved me when
I was his enemy.



He loves me
when I don't under-
stand.



mandy Grace '12

ministry-to-children.com



He loves me on
my toughest days.



He loves me in
my weaknesses.



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Apostles' Creed

What do you believe?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.¹ The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 When the Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell," we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

² Or "universal."

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Text: William Featherstone • Music: Adoniram Gordon • Public Domain

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou.
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow.
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life and I'll love thee in death;
I'll praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say, when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in Heaven so bright,
and sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
"If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Text & Music: Stuart Townend • ©1995 Thankyou Music

How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
Be - hold the man up - on the cross, my
I will not boast in an - y thing, no
vast be - yond all mea - sure, that
sin up - on His should - ers; a -
5 gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but
He should give His on - ly Son to
shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
7 I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His
make a wretch His trea - sure. How
out a - mong the scof - fers. It
10 death and res - ur - rect - ion. Why
great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns His
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac -
13 should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an
face a - way as wounds which mar the
com - plished. His dy - ing breath has
15 an - swer, but this I know with
cho - sen one bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life, I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

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

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~

Sunday School • About 15 minutes after Worship, the children will meet in the sanctuary for singing, then go to their classes. Adults will meet for sermon discussion in the fellowship hall.

Pre-K	Joe Pope & Abigail Ryerson
Kinder	Joe Edwards & Matthew Manary
Grades 1-3	Brian Friesen & Nathanael Ryerson
Grades 4+	Dave Bull

Home Groups • Today: Eric & Jerilee Costa (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro) will host a lunch gathering to discuss Tim Keller's book, *Generous Justice*.

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

- 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)

Leadership Seminars • 9:15am Sundays, open to everyone...

Oct. 5	"Being Christ-Centered"	Nov. 2	"Being Missional"
Oct. 19	"Being Servants"	Nov. 16	"Elders and Deacons"

Women's Retreat • Oct. 10-12 in Rockaway Beach. The cost is \$55 for two nights and five meals. The deadline to register is Sept. 28 (next Sunday!). Contact: Larissa Friesen (larissaelaborates@gmail.com).

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

Today: Ryerson Next Sunday: Manary

Refreshments Volunteers • Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com).

Today: Ryerson Next Sunday: Manary

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 at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
ascensionpc.org • [facebook.com/ascensionpc](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionpc) • twitter.com/ascensionpc

(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.