



# ASCENSION

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## 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](http://ascensionpc.org/worship) to learn more about our Worship.)

*Please silence your electronic devices.*

## Worship • October 26, 2014

### Reformation Sunday



## THE WORD



### CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger is but for a moment,  
and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

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 musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

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 • Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I thank you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 145:18-20

The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.  
The LORD preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

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

### OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

### 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](http://ascensionpc.org/sermons/the-lords-prayer) to learn more about prayer.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 26:1-3

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...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to reign in justice as our King:

*Cause our President and Congress to love justice and mercy. Help our Mayor and City Council to increase the peace of the city.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

*Restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. Destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. Protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to bring us peace with God:

*Bring peace between nations in Your world; help Ascension to live in your peace together; come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

*Show mercy to our friends who do not yet know you; deepen our faith in the Gospel of grace.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy death and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

*Comfort those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to sympathize with our weaknesses:

*Please hear us as we bring you our specific 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.*

## O God Our Help In Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: William Croft • Public Domain

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home!

Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

Thy word commands our flesh to dust:  
"Return, ye sons of men!"  
All nations rose from earth at first  
and turn to earth again.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

O God our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

# O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis • Music: Thomas J. Williams • Public Domain

Tenor

O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,  
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,  
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,  
Vast un - mea - sured, bound - less, free!  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
Love of ev - ery love the best!  
Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean In its  
How He love - eth, e - ver love - eth, Chang - eth  
'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing 'Tis a  
full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me,  
nev - er, nev - er - more! How He watch - es  
hav - en sweet of rest! O the deep, deep  
all a - round me, Is the cur - rent  
O'er His loved ones, Died to call them  
love of Je - sus, 'Tis a heav'n of  
of Thy love Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing  
all His own; How for them he in - ter -  
heav'ns to me; And it lifts me up to  
home - ward To Thy glo - rious rest a - bove!  
ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne!  
glor - y, For it lifts me up to Thee!

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 John 4:13-21

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • "As He Is So Also Are We" (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 • Philippians 2:6-11**

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

*I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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.

# There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

Text: William Cowper • Music: Lowell Mason • Public Domain



There is a fountain filled with blood drawn  
The dying thief rejoiced to see that  
Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall  
For since by faith I saw the stream Thy  
3 Then in a nobler, sweet-er song I'll



from I - man - uels' veins; and sin - ners plunged be -  
foun - tain in his day; and there may I though  
nev - er lose its power till all the ran - somed  
flow - ing wounds sup - ply, Re - deem - ing love has  
6 sing Thy pow'r to save: When this poor lisp - ing



neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains; lose  
vile as he, wash all my sins a - way: wash  
church of God are saved to sin no more: are  
been my theme and shall be till I die. And  
9 stamm' ring tongue lies si - lent in the grave. Lies



all their guilt - y stains lose all their guilt - y  
all my sins a - way wash all my sins a -  
saved to sin no more, are saved to sin no  
shall be till I die and shall be till I  
12 si - lent in the grave, lies si - lent in the



stains and sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose  
way; and there may I though vile as he, wash  
more; till all the ran - somed church of God are  
die; Re - deem - ing love has been my theme and  
15 grave; when this poor lisp - ing stamm' - ring tongue lies



all their guilt - y stains.  
all my sins a - way.  
saved, to sin no more.  
shall be till I die.  
si - lent in the grave.

## To God Be The Glory

Text: Fanny Crosby • Music: William Doane • Public Domain

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life our redemption to win,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*(Chorus)*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory; great things he hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*(Chorus)*

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

*(Chorus)*

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

## **BENEDICTION • John 14:27**

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

~

**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.

**Generous Justice Home Group** • Today (Oct. 26) after Worship and Sunday School, at the Costa home. Join us for lunch and a conversation about chapters 2 & 3 of Tim Keller's book. Children are welcome.

**Mercy Sunday** • Nov. 2. 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). To sign up to bring food supplies, contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

**Music Group** • All musicians (and families) are invited to join us at 6:30pm Wednesdays at the Costa home for a brief time of devotion, fellowship, and practice.

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

- 10am Tue., Nov. 4 at the home of Tracy Edwards (soup lunch will be provided)

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

Nov. 2 - "Being Missional"

Nov. 16 - "Elders and Deacons"

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

Today: Aznoe

Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Manary

Next Sunday: Costa

**Finance Report (through Sept.)** • Income: \$92,200 Expenses: \$101,700 Cash Reserves: \$18k

**Regular Gatherings** • For information about our meetings like home groups and bible studies for men and women, visit [ascensionpc.org/calendar](http://ascensionpc.org/calendar).



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(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.