



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Advent: "The Mothers Of Jesus"

December 7, 2014

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CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 64:10

Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him!

Let all the upright in heart exult!

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frederick Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, 14, and 18. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 45:22, 24a

“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength.”

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 • Isaiah 45:17

Israel is saved by the LORD
with everlasting salvation;
you shall not be put to shame or confounded
to all eternity.

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

OFFERING • Exodus 23:19

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your 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.*

GOSPEL READING • Luke 5:27-34

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

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...

Father Eternal, God Almighty, you have brought forth from the root of Jesse a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

He is your anointed one, the promised Messiah, in him you are well pleased. We come to you in his service, to offer our prayers of intercession for the coming of his kingdom.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be faithful to her Lord, bearing witness to his reign in every land among every people.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be our Lord and Shepherd.

We pray for those whom you have appointed to be ministers of your gospel. We especially ask for your protection and help for our pastor.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be Lord of all the earth.

We pray that you draw all people to kneel before the Prince of Peace. Please establish justice and peace between nations in your world.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords.

We pray for the rulers of our nation that they might be wise, fearing the Lord to whom they must bow in the world to come.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of your people.

We pray for those among us who suffer, for those who are lonely, for those without home or family, for those who are depressed and discouraged, for those who are seeking work, for those who are sick, for those who are grieving.

Praise, honor and glory belong to you, Eternal Father, and to your Son, who taught us to pray 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.*

Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

8 With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger
4 filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:
7 All glo - ry be to Je - sus! Up-on a cross my
11 Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still
15 o-pen wide: All glo - ry be to Je - sus! And this is
20 love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to
26 save! All glo - ry be to Je - sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,
his work of love and mercy done,
the Father's high ascended Son:
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,
because of our Lord's sacrifice,
new life through him, the crucified:
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!
He came to earth our souls to save!
And this is love! And this is grace!
That Christ, our God, did come to save!
All glory be to Jesus.
All glory be to Jesus.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

18th Century English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of eight staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men let no - thing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy." The music is written in a simple, clear style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

God rest you mer - ry gen - tle - men let
no - thing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our
Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, to
save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a -
stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and
joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of
com - fort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Joshua 2

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The Mothers Of Jesus: Rahab” (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



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 glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine.

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

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is presented on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18 indicating the start of each line. The lyrics are: "An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o." The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

(Chorus)

Silent Night

Text: Franz Gruber • Music: Joseph Mohr • Public Domain

Tenor

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor voice part. It consists of five staves of music in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!". The second staff starts with a measure rest of 3 measures, then continues with "All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin". The third staff continues with "moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so". The fourth staff continues with "ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,". The fifth staff continues with "sleep in heav - en - ly peace." and ends with a double bar line.

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!

All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin

moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so

ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with
3
8 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:
7
8 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -
10
8 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
13
8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature of 8. The second staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The third staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fourth staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fifth staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The score ends with a double bar line.

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

~

Mercy Sunday • 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).

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.

Music Group • All musicians (and families) are invited to join us at 6:30pm Wednesdays at the Costa home for a time of devotion, fellowship, and practice. Contact: Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

Moms' Group • 10am Tue., Dec. 16 at the home of Jerilee Costa, lunch provided.

Christmas Eve Service • 7pm Wed., Dec. 24.

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Tayun

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Doherty

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.



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