



**ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Advent: "The Mothers Of Jesus"

December 14, 2014

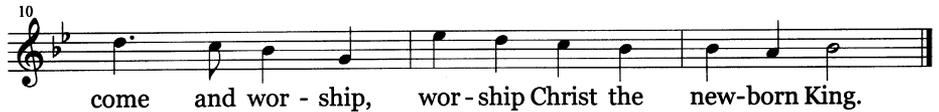
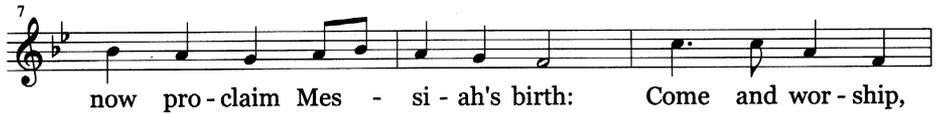
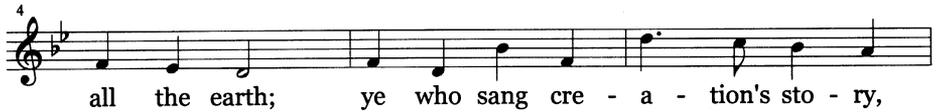
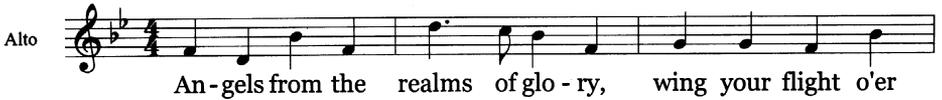
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**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 66:1-2**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise!

# Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Henry Smart • Public Domain



Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.

*(Chorus)*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen his natal star.

*(Chorus)*

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.

*(Chorus)*

Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains,  
Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you; break your chains.

*(Chorus)*

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 50:7-9a

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.  
Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:31, 33-34

If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us.

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

### OFFERING • Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

### CHORAL OFFERTORY • “Sans Day Carol”

### 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.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • Hebrews 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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.*

# The First Noel

Traditional English Carol

Alto

The first Noel the an - gel did  
say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they  
lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier  
sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so  
deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the carol 'The First Noel'. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines. The lyrics are: 'The first Noel the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' The final measure ends with a double bar line.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*(Chorus)*

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a King was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*(Chorus)*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*(Chorus)*

# O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles*

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him Christ the Lord." The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and phrasing slurs.

O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri -  
um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him  
born the King of an - gels; O  
come let us a - dore him, O come let us a -  
dore him, O come let us a - dore him  
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
(Chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
(Chorus)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ruth 4:13-22**

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “The Mothers Of Jesus: Ruth” (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 • The Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

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

*And we 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 we 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 we believe in one holy catholic<sup>1</sup> and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we 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.* <sup>(1 Cor. 5:7-8)</sup>

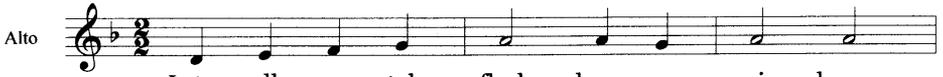
The gifts of God for the people of God.

### GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

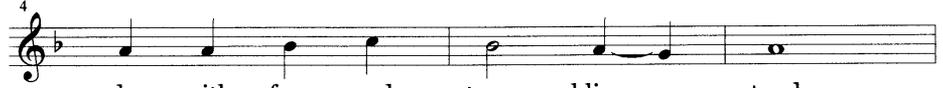
<sup>1</sup> Or, "universal."

# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

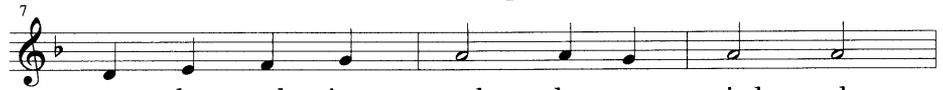
Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> Century • Music: French Melody • Public Domain



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,  
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y,  
Rank on rank the host of heav - en  
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph;



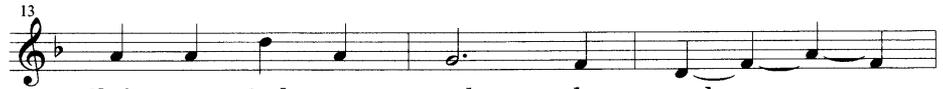
and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
as of old on earth He stood,  
spreads its van - guard on the way,  
cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,  
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,  
as the Light of light de - - scend - eth  
veil their fac - es to the pre - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand,  
in the bod - y and the blood,  
from the realms of end - less day,  
as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - - - -  
He will give to all the faith - - - -  
that the pow'rs of hell may van - - - -  
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - -



eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
ia. al - le - lu - ia. Lord Most High!"

# It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears • Music: Richard S. Willis • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of 19 measures. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with  
And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose  
glo - rious song of old, from  
peace - ful wings un - furled, and  
form are bend - ing low, who  
an - gels bend - ing near the earth to  
still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er  
toil a - long the climb - ing way with  
touch their harps of gold: "Peace  
all the wea - ry world: A -  
pain - ful steps and slow, Look  
on the earth good will to men, from  
bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
now! For glad and gold - en hours come  
heav - en's all - gra - cious King;" the  
bend - on hov - 'ring wing, and  
swift - ly on the wing: O  
world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels  
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bles - sed an - gels  
rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels  
sing.  
sing.  
sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

# Of The Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413 • Music: *Divinum Mysterium*, 11<sup>th</sup> c.



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the  
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the  
This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of  
O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel  
3 Christ to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O



worlds be - gan to be. he is Al - pha and O - me -  
Vir - gin, full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv -  
old with one ac - cord, Whom the Scrip - tures of the proph -  
hosts, his prais - es sing; All do - min - ions, bow be - fore  
6 Ho - ly Ghost, to thee, Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiv -



ga, he the Source, the End - ing he. Of the  
ing bore the Sav - ior of our race; and the  
ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he  
him and ex - tol our God and King; Let no  
9 ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be, Ho - nor,



things that are that have - been, and that  
babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re -  
shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre -  
tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev' - ry  
12 glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e -



fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ever - more!  
vealed his sa - red face, ev - er - more and ever - more!  
a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ever - more!  
voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ever - more!  
ter - nal vic - tor - y, ev - er - more and ever - more!

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

## **BENEDICTION • Ephesians 6:23-24**

Peace be to you, brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

~

**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 & Choir Practice** • 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: Pope                      Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Doherty                  Next Sunday: Ryerson

**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.