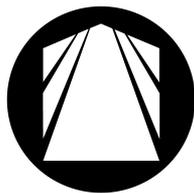


Gustave Doré, "The Creation Of Light" (1866)



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Genesis: The Beginning Of The End"

January 4, 2015

~

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-35

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

Awesome is God from his sanctuary;

the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

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

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth: Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.' The score includes measure numbers 1, 4, 7, and 10. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef.

An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new-born King.

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 • Jeremiah 2:12-13

“Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that his blood is our peace, his death our freedom, his smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Jeremiah 3:22a

“Return, O faithless sons;
I will heal your faithlessness.”

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

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 22:12-13

¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

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...

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,
Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,
We ask for grace and wisdom.

For those who don’t yet believe the gospel,
We ask for your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,
We ask for your guidance.

For people who suffer and grieve,
We ask for your healing peace.

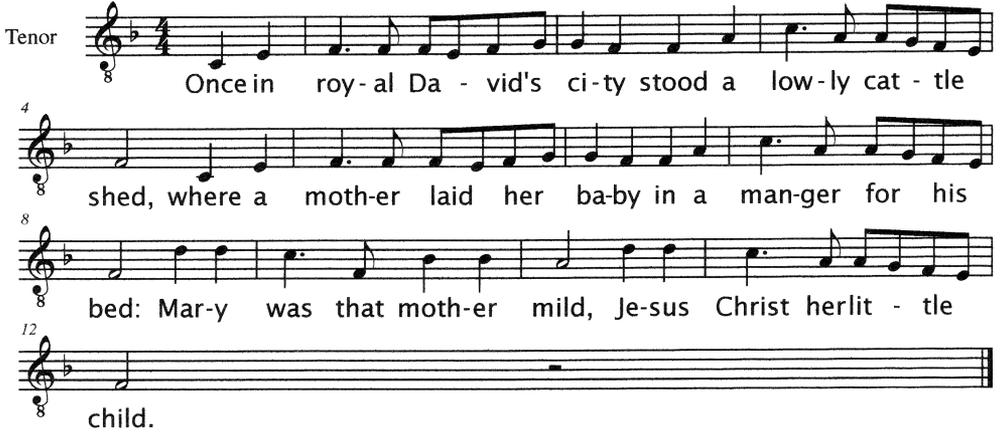
Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words He taught us, saying:

*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.*

Once In Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander • Music: Henry J. Gauntlett • Public Domain

Tenor



8

4

8

8

12

8

Once in roy-al Da - vid's ci-ty stood a low-ly cat - tle
shed, where a moth-er laid her ba-by in a man-ger for his
bed: Mar-y was that moth-er mild, Je-sus Christ her lit - tle
child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall be around.

Within A Crib My Savior Lay

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

Tenor

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The God Who Created” (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 • Colossians 1:15-20

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 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

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)

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'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21. 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)

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

18th Century English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. 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 score includes measure numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18.

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!

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

BENEDICTION • Psalm 134:3

May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

~

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 we'll meet to discuss the 2015 budget and the officer nominations process. If you consider Ascension your church home (whether you're a member or not), we think it would be a good idea for you to attend this meeting.

Moms' Group • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

- 10am Tue., Jan. 13 at the Costa home. Lunch provided.
- 10am Tue., Jan. 27 at Manaia Coffee House, 2nd & Main (downtown Hillsboro).

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

Today: Ryerson Next Sunday: Manary

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Doherty

Finances Through November

Reg. Giving: \$113,100

Expenses: \$123,900

Cash Reserves: \$16,500

Alms: \$3,600

Mercy Distributions: \$1,900

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)

- 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