

**ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"  
January 11, 2015

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

  
THE WORD  


**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 81:1**

Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

The flame symbolizes the holy presence of God and the light of his Gospel among us.

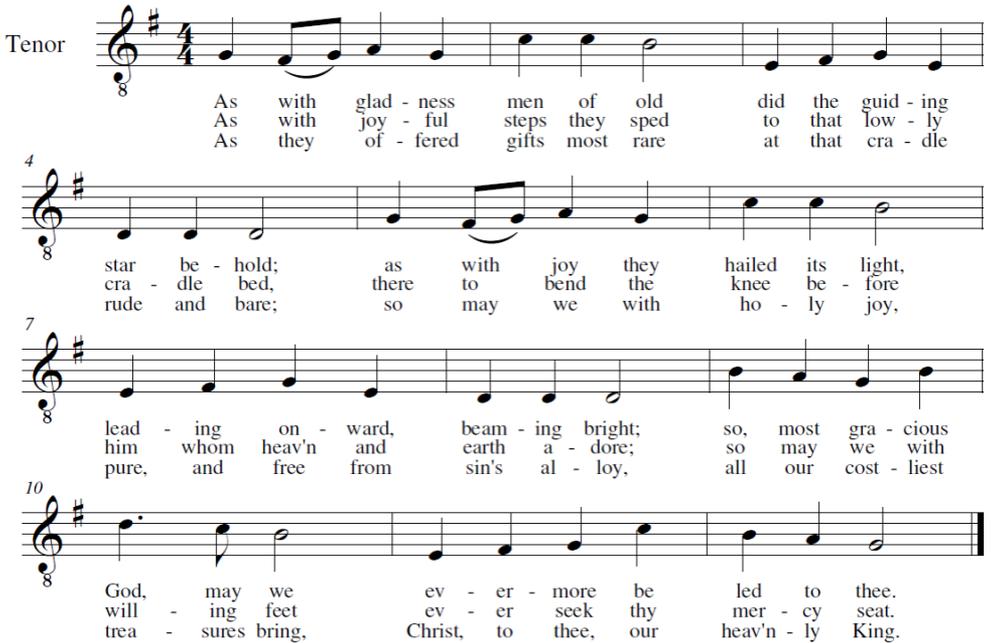
God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

The Triune God is a singing God (Zeph. 3:14-17)! So it is fitting to respond to him with **singing...**

# As With Gladness Men Of Old

Text: William Chatterton Dix • Music: Conrad Kocher • Public Domain

Tenor



8

4

7

8

10

8

As with gladness men of old did the guid-ing;  
As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly;  
As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle  
star-be-hold; as there with joy they hailed its light,  
rude and bare; so may we bend the knee be-fore joy,  
lead-ing whom on-ward, beam-ing bright; so, most gra-cious  
him whom heav'n and earth a-dore; so, may we with  
pure, and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest  
God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee,  
will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat,  
treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hosea 6:1

Come, let us return to the LORD,  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to give sacrificially, but we are begrudging. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that, joined with those from ages past who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the unshakeable kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hosea 14:4

"I will heal their apostasy;  
I will love them freely,  
for my anger has turned from them."

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

### OFFERING • Matthew 10:8

"Freely you have received. Freely give."

### 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 • John 5:1-18

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](http://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, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,

*That we all may be one.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully and humbly serve you,

*That your Name would be honored by all people.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who lead and guide your church,

*That they may be faithful and diligent servants of you.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world,

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake,

*That we may know the joy of living for you.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble,

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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.*

# O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles* • 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 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 final measure of the piece is a whole note chord.

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)

# The People That In Darkness Sat

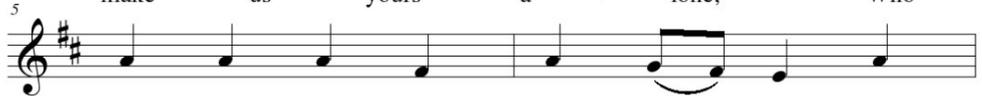
Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a  
To hail you, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, the  
To us the Child of hope is born, to  
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the  
His righ - teous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall  
Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and



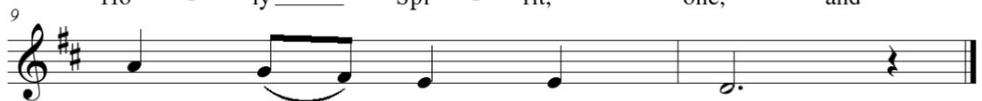
glo - rious light have seen; The  
gath - 'ring na - tions come; They  
us the Son is giv'n, And  
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The  
o - ver all ex - tend; On  
make us yours a - lone, Who



light has shined on them who long in  
joy as when the reap - ers bear their  
on his shoul - der ev - er rests all  
Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the  
judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his  
with the Fa - ther ev - er are and



shades of death have been, in  
har - vest trea - sures home, their  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all  
God by all a - dored, the  
reign shall have no end, his  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, one, and



shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home.  
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God by all a - dored.  
reign shall have no end.  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, one.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 1:1 – 2:3**

The Word of the Lord.

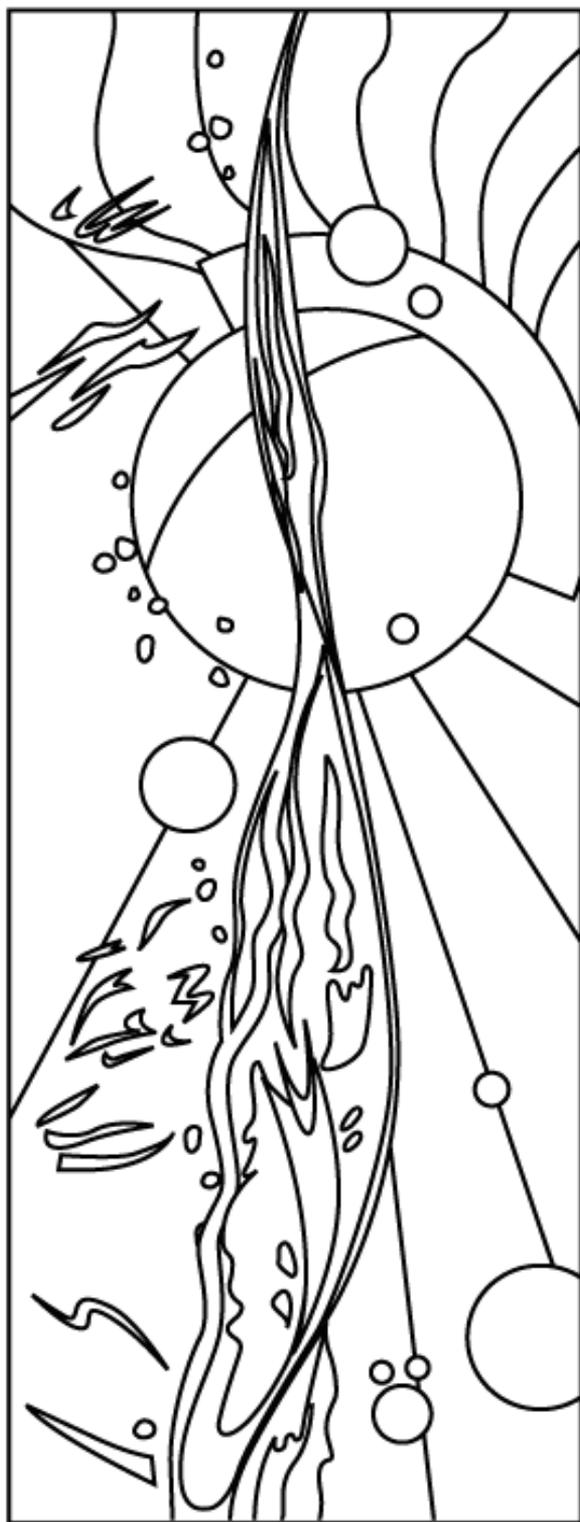
*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “The Seven Days Of Creation” (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 • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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**

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.

# What Child Is This?

English Carol • Music: Greensleeves • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: 'What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - them's sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of Mar - y.'

What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - them's sweet while  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of  
Mar - y.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

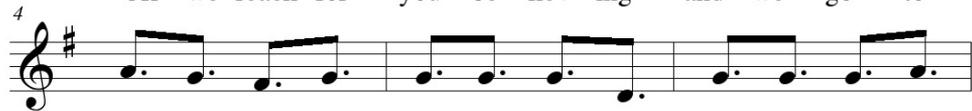
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

# As We Walk Along Beside You

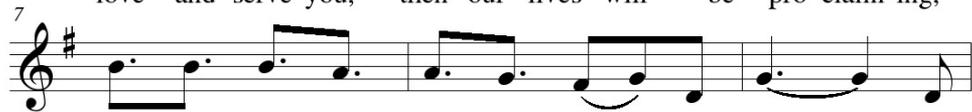
Text: Michael A. Perry (Luke 24) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain



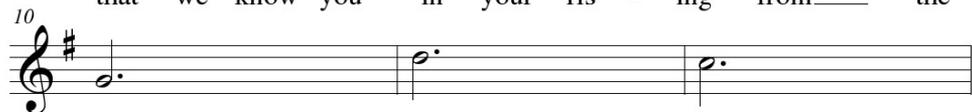
As we walk a - long be - side you and we hear you  
As we ask that you stay with us, and we watch what  
As we reach for you be - liev - ing and we go to



4 speak of mer - cy then it seems our hearts are burn - ing  
you are do - ing then our eyes be - gin to o - pen,  
love and serve you, then our lives will be pro-claim-ing,



7 for we find you in the shar - ing of \_\_\_\_\_ the  
for we see you in the break - ing of \_\_\_\_\_ the  
that we know you in your ris - ing from \_\_\_\_\_ the



10 word. A - - - le - - -  
bread. \_\_\_\_\_  
dead. \_\_\_\_\_



13 lu \_\_\_\_\_ ia. \_\_\_\_\_ A - -



16 le - - - lu - ia. \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:16**

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

~

**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.

**Officer Nominations** • For the month of January we're receiving nominations for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Members are encouraged to participate.

**Gospel-Centered Life Home Group** • Today at the home of Joe & Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany St., Tigard). Everyone is invited to join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation—children are always welcome!

**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: Manary      Next Sunday: Costa

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

Today: Doherty      Next Sunday: Hatch

**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.