

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"
January 18, 2015

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

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...**

O Worship The King

Text: Robert Grant (Psalm 104) • Music: Johann Michael Haydn • 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 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "O wor-ship the King all - glo-rious a - bove, O grate-ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and De - fend-er the An-cient of Days, pa - vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise." The score includes measure numbers 4, 8, 12, and 16. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests.

O wor-ship the King all - glo-rious a -
bove, O grate-ful - ly sing his pow'r and his
love; our shield and De - fend-er the An-cient of
Days, pa - vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with
praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
his chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares the LORD,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Joel 2:32

Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

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 • 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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...

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in His name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all generations, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation to all.

Strengthen those you have chosen that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of comfort, you bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow.

Look with compassion on those who are troubled, cheer them by your word, and bring them healing as a sign of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God, whose word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Thy works, not mine, O
Thy pains, not mine, O
Thy cross, not mine, O

2
8 Christ, speak glad - ness to this heart;
Christ, u - pon the shame - ful tree,
Christ, has borne the aw - ful load,

5
8 They tell me all is done; they bid my fear de -
have paid the law's full price and pur - chased peace for
of sins that none in heav'n or earth could bear but

7
8 part. To whom, save Thee, who
me.
God.

10
8 canst a - lone for sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee? To

13
8 whom, save Thee, who canst a - lone for sin a - tone, Lord,

16
8 shall I flee?

Thy righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me;
No righteousness avails save that which is of Thee.

(Chorus)

Come, Holy Ghost

Text: Rhabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856); chorus by Ray Mills (2005)

Music: Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills • ©2006 Cardiphonia Music, ©2006 Raymond G. Mills

5
Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest,
O com - fort - er, to Thee we cry,
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
9 Thou heav'n - ly gift of God most high;
14 Come with Thy grace and heav'n-ly aid to fill our
Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet an -
18 hearts which Thou hast made, to fill our
noint - ing from a - bove, and sweet a -
23 hearts which Thou hast made. Be not a -
noint - ing from a - bove.
fraid, _____ where you go there I am with you.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone know we the Father and the Son;
be this our firm, unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed,
that thou dost from them both proceed.

(Chorus x2)

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one;
and may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
all gifts that from the Spirit flow.

(Chorus x2)

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Word of the Lord.

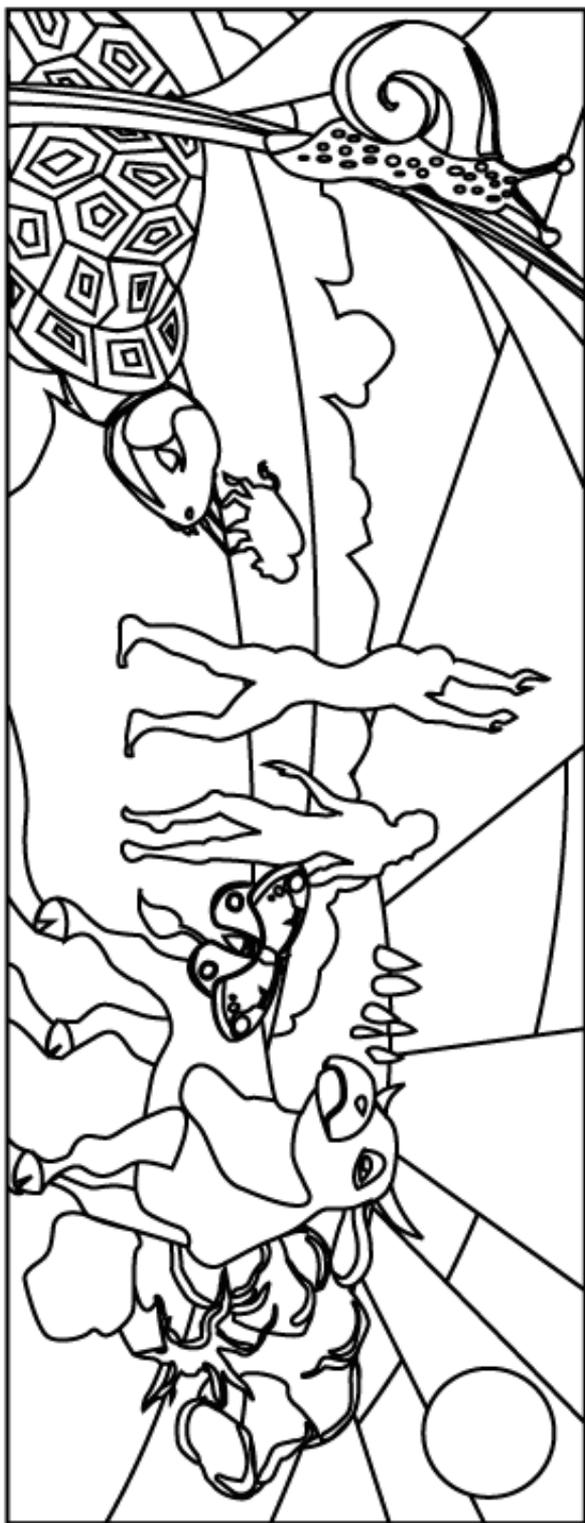
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "The Image Of God" (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 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 catholic¹ 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. ^(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 glasses on your right contain grape juice for those who do not want wine.

¹ Or, “universal.”

What Wondrous Love Is This

Text: American Folk Hymn • Music: Southern Harmony • Public Domain



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
2 When I was sin-king down, sin-king down, sin-king
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won-drous love is this, O my soul! What
down, when I was sin-king down, sin-king down; when
sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing! To
on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And



won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
I was sin-king down be - neath God's right eous frown, Christ
God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while
when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and



bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing, while mil lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

The Sands Of Time Are Sinking

Text: Anne R. Cousin • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

8
The sands of time are sink-ing, -the dawn of_ heav-en_
4
The King there in His beau-ty with - out_ a_ veil is_
8
breaks, the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the
7
seen; it were a well spent jour - ney though
8
fair_ sweet morn a - wakes; so dark hath been the
10
se-ven deaths lay__ be - tween: the Lamb with His fair
8
mid - night, but day-spring is at hand, and glo - ry,
14
ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
8
18
glo - ry dwell-eth in Em-man-uel's land! And glo - ry,
8
glo - ry, dwell-eth in Em-man - uel's_ land!

O Christ, he is the fountain, the deep sweet well of love!
The streams of earth I've tasted, more deep I'll drink above;
there to an ocean fullness his mercy doth expand,

(Chorus)

The bride eyes not her garment, but eyes her bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace;
not on the crown he gifteth, but on his pierced hands:

(Chorus)

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

BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

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.

Generous Justice Home Group • Next Sunday (Jan. 25) at the home of Matthew & Kristine Manary (38191 NW Hahn Road, Banks). Everyone is invited to join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation.

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

- 10am Tue., Jan. 27 at Manaia Coffee House, 2nd & Main (downtown Hillsboro).

Women's Discipleship Study • 9:30am Fri., 2/6, 2/20, and 3/6, location TBA. Larissa Friesen is leading discussions of *The Trellis And The Vine*, by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne. This book is very helpful in getting a vision for personal/relational discipleship.

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Sery

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

Today: Hatch Next Sunday: Doherty

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.