

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 25, 2015



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:6-8a

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.

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

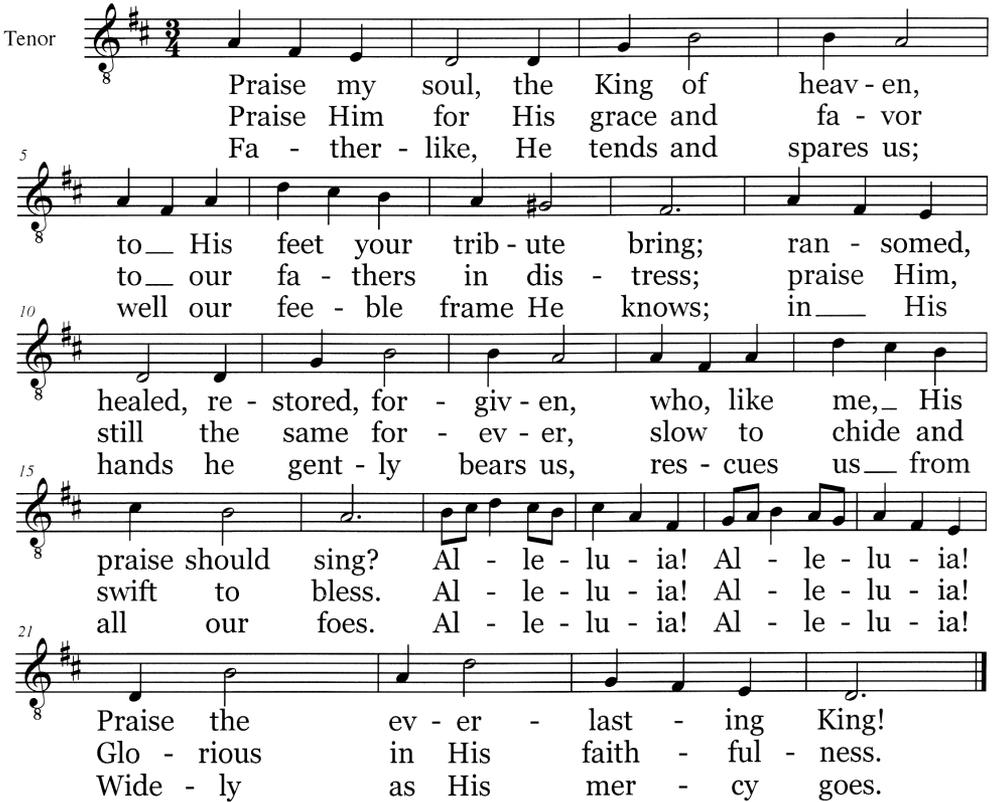
God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

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

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

Text: Henry F. Lyte • Music: Mark Andrews • Public Domain

Tenor



8 Praise my soul, the King of heav-en,
Praise Him for His grace and fa-vor
5 Fa-ther-like, He tends and spares us;
8 to His feet your trib-ute bring; ran-somed,
to our fa-thers in dis-tress; praise Him,
10 well our fee-ble frame He knows; in His
8 healed, re-stored, for-giv-en, who, like me, His
still the same for-ev-er, slow to chide and
15 hands he gent-ly bears us, res-cues us from
8 praise should sing? Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
swift to bless. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
21 all our foes. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
8 Praise the ev-er-last-ing King!
Glo-rious in His faith-ful-ness.
Wide-ly as His mer-cy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the High Eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Micah 7:18

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Micah 7:19

He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

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

OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 1

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations,

Hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need,

Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.

We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly 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.

In Christ Alone

Text & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend • ©2001 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It consists of ten staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful - ness of There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the light, my strength, — my song; — This Cor - ner - God in help - less babe! — This gift of world by dark - ness slain: — Then burst - ing stone, this so - lid ground. firm through the love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the forth in glor - ious day up from the fier - cest drought — and storm. — What heights of ones he came — to save: — 'Till on that grave He rose — a - gain! — And as He love, what depths of peace — when fears are cross as Je - sus died, — the wrath of stands in vic - to - ry — sin's curse has stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in God was sa - tis - fied. — For ev - 'ry sin on Him was lost its grip on me, — for I am His and He is all, here in the love of Christ — I stand. laid; here in the death of Christ — I live. mine, bought with the pre - cious blood — of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
'till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

The Son Of God Goes Forth To War

Text and Music: Reginald Heber (1812) • Public Domain

The Son of God goes forth to war, a
The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye could
A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few on
A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, the

3
king - ly crown to gain; his blood - red ban - ner
pierce be - yond the grave, who saw his Mas - ter
whom the Spir - it came, twelve val - iant saints, their
ma - tron and the maid, a round the Sav - ior's

6
streams a - far; who fol - lows in his train? Who
in the sky, and called on him to save: like
hope they knew, and mocked the cross and flame: they
throne re - joice, in robes of light ar - rayed: they

9
best can drink his cup of woe, tri - um - phant o - ver
him, with par - don on his tongue in midst of mor - tal
met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, the li - on's gor - y
climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n through per - il, toil, and

12
pain, who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, he
pain, he prayed for them that did the wrong: who
mane; they bowed their necks the death to feel: who
pain: O God, to us may grace be giv'n to

15
fol - lows in his train,
fol - lows in his train?
fol - lows in their train?
fol - low in their train.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 5:1-11

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

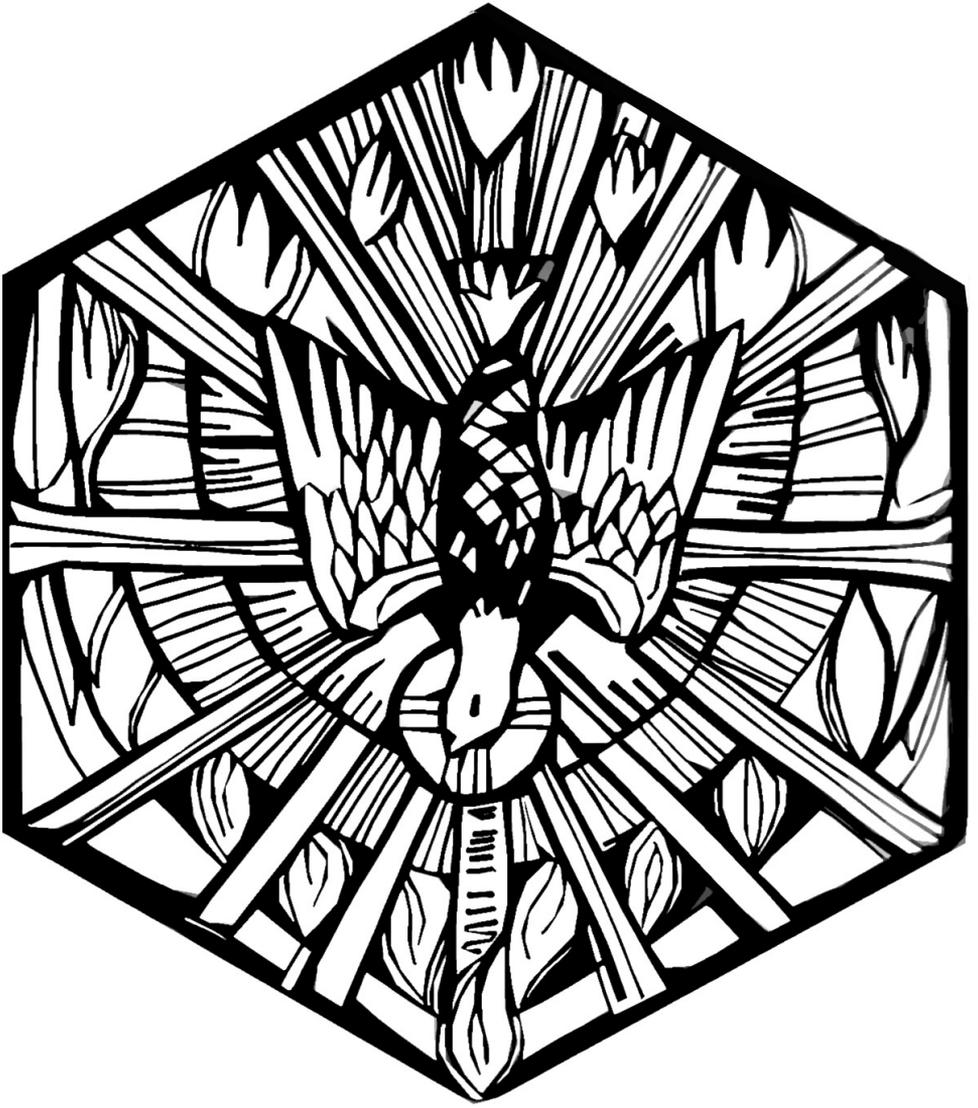
Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • (Rev. Aaron Morris • Hope Presbyterian, Portland)

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 • 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

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.

I Hunger And Thirst For You O Lord

Text: John S. B. Monsell, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor

8 I hun - ger and I thirst;
Thou bruised and bro - ken Bread,
Thou true life - giv - ing Vine,
Rough paths my feet have trod,
3 Je - sus my man - na be; ye liv - ing wa - ters,
my life - long needs sup - ply; as liv - ing souls are
let me Thy sweet - ness prove; re - new my life with
6 since first their course be - gan; feed me, thou Bread of
8 burst, out of the rock for me. I
fed, O feed me or I die. I
Thine, re - fresh my soul with love. I
9 God, help me thou Son of Man. I
8 hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
13 hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
8 Je - sus Christ the bread of
17 life, I hun - ger for you Lord!

For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before;
O living waters rise within me evermore.
I hunger and I thirst, Jesus my manna be!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Unknown, 8th Century • Music: "Slane" (Irish Folk Tune) • Public Domain



Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my
Be thou my wis - dom and thou my true
Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my
Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry



heart, naught be all else to me
word; I ev - er with thee and
fight; be thou my dig - ni - ty,
praise; thou mine in - her - i - tance,
won, may I reach heav - en's joys,



save that thou art, thou my best
thou with me, Lord; thou my great
thou my de - light, thou my soul's
now and al - ways: thou and thou
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my



thought by day or by night
Fa - ther, I thy true son;
shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;
on - ly, first in my heart,
own heart, what - ev - er - be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

~

Aaron Morris • Aaron is the Pastor of Hope PCA in Portland (hopeportland.org). Aaron and Kara have three children: Walker, Sophie June, and Ford.

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 • Today 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).

Mercy Sunday • Feb. 1. 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). To sign up to bring food supplies, contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

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.

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

Today: Sery Next Sunday: ____

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

Today: Doherty Next Sunday: Costa

Regular Gatherings • For information about our meetings like home groups and bible studies for men and women, visit ascensionpc.org/calendar.



Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®),
copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

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)

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.