

ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"
February 15, 2015

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 97:12

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

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

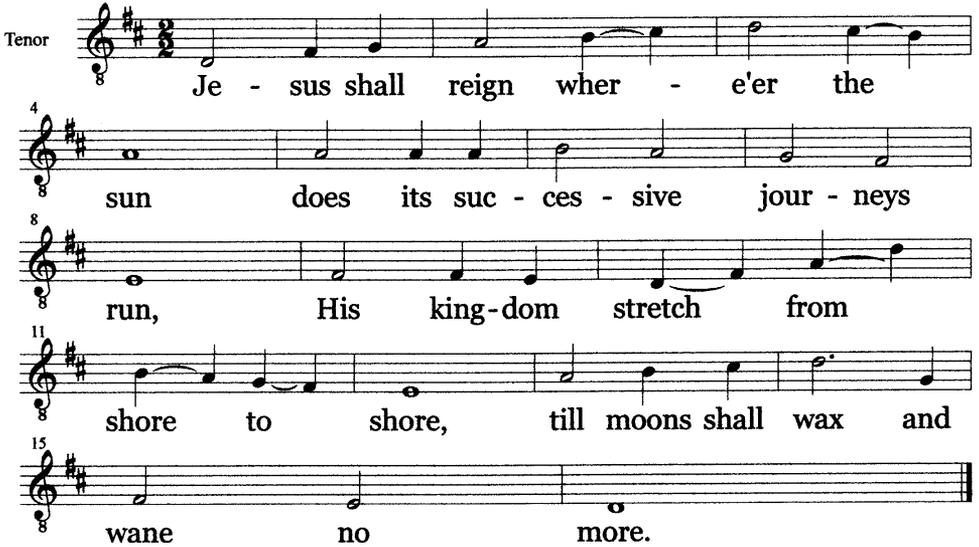
God has the first word as **he calls us to Worship**. He takes the initiative in our relationship; he makes himself known to us and moves toward us in love (1 John 4:19). By God's grace alone we are invited, called into his presence. He has brought you here to respond to his grace.

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

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: John Hatton • Public Domain

Tenor



Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the
sun does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys
run, His king - dom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and
wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • John 8:34

"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. Where will I go? I look to you, Lord Jesus, and I believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I cling to you and am made sure, for you have promised that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life. Even if my conscience is troubled and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, you have still assured me that my sins have been forgiven on account of your name. I cannot help myself and so come to you for help. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 8:36

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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

OFFERING • 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.

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.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Hebrews 4:4-11

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...

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.

Our Father in heaven, you are over all and through all and in all. All things come from you. We exist for you.

We praise you for all your works, especially in our creation and redemption.

Holy Father, no one has ever seen you, except the One who is at your side.

We thank you for making yourself known to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Eternal Father, you loved the Son before the foundation of the world. By your grace you have loved us even as you have loved him.

We love you because you first loved us. We want to know you and love you even as your Son knows you and loves you.

Merciful Father, you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all.

We believe that you sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins.

Father of glory, you raised your Son from the dead, and you have given all things into his hands.

We tremble at your power over life and death. We submit to the authority of your Son.

Father, you have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

We thank you for adopting us as your sons and daughters through Christ. We rejoice that you have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you.

We worship you for your daily care for our physical needs. Please keep our hearts from loving the gifts more than the Giver.

Father of spirits, what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

We trust that you love us, and that you are forming Christ in us through our temporary sufferings. Please have mercy on us in the weakness of our faith, and make us ready for heaven.

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows, you love justice and mercy.

We want to be more like you. Please help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to put their needs before our own.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to pray as your Son taught His disciples, 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.

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain



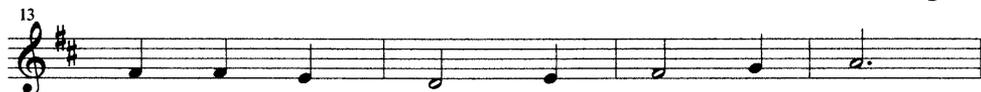
Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sav - ior and King we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
heav'n - ward by thine et - ter - nal plan.
make us what thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part". The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17.

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 1:31 – 2:3

^{1:31} God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Word of the Lord.

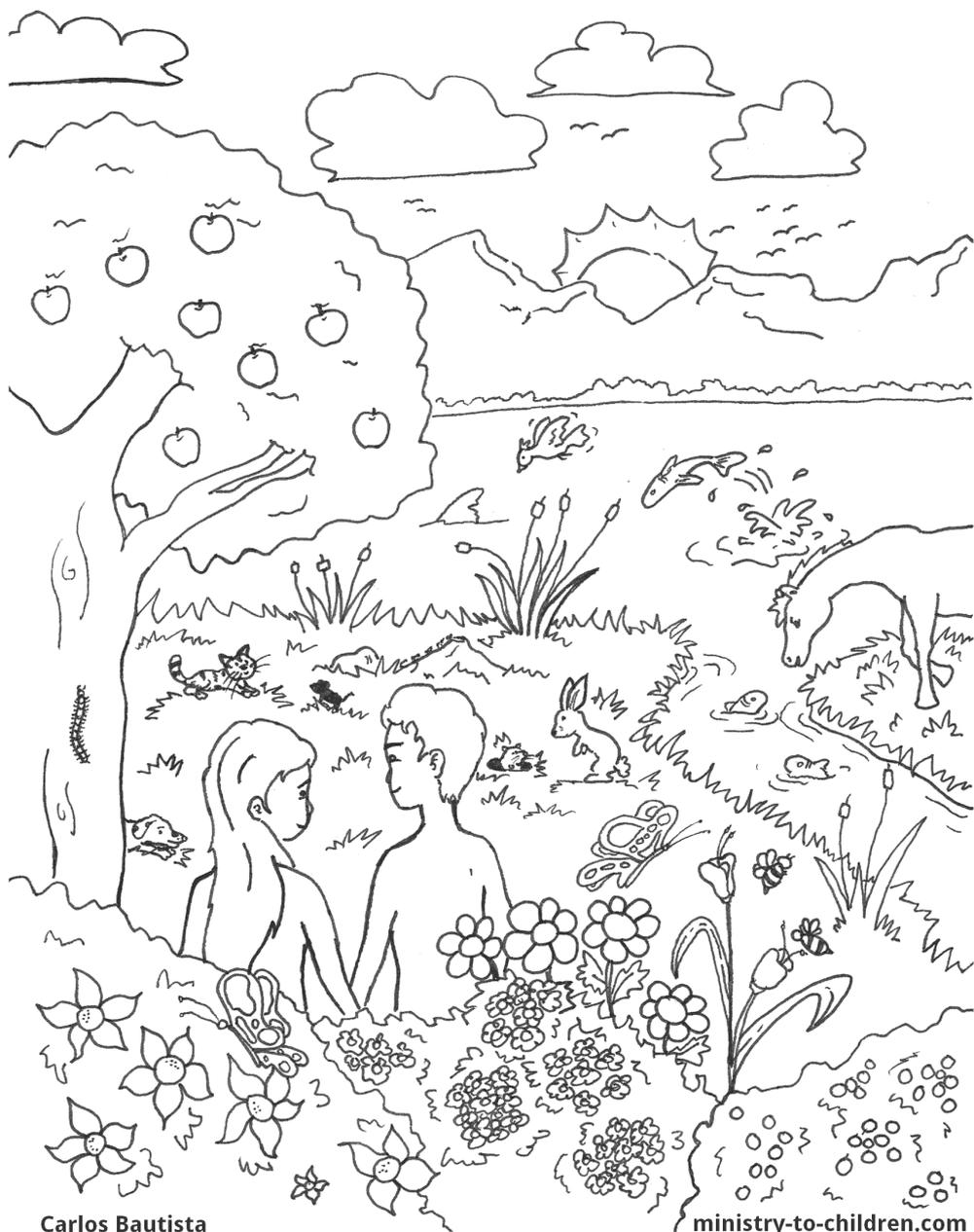
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The Seventh Day” (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.



Carlos Bautista

ministry-to-children.com



THE UPPER ROOM



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 • 1 Corinthians 11:26; 5:7-8

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.

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.

Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

Text & Music: Robert Lowry • Public Domain (Hymnary.org)



1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of
2. For my par-don this I see: noth-ing but the blood of
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone: noth-ing but the blood of
4. This is all my hope and peace: noth-ing but the blood of



Je - sus. What can make me whole a - gain?
Je - sus. For my clean - sing this my plea:
Je - sus. Naught of good that I have done:
Je - sus. This is all my right - eous - ness:



Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Refrain



O pre cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;



no o - ther fount I know; noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

5. Now by this I'll overcome, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I'll reach my home, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

My Jesus, As Thou Wilt

Text: Benjamin Schmolck • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Public Domain

Tenor



My Je-sus as Thou wilt: O may Thy will be—
My Je-sus as Thou wilt: Though seen through man - y a
mine! In - to Thy hand of— love I would my all re -
tear, Let not my star of— hope grow dim or dis - a -
sign. Through sor - row or through joy, con -
pear. Since Thou on earth hast— wept and
duct me as Thine own, and help me still to— say, "My
sor - rowed oft a - lone, if I must weep with Thee, "My
Lord, Thy will be— done." A - men!— A -
Lord, Thy will be— done."
men!— A - - - men!—

My Jesus, as thou wilt: all shall be well for me;
each changing future scene I gladly trust with thee.
Straight to my home above, I travel calmly on,
and sing in life or death, "My Lord, thy will be done."
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Amen.

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

BENEDICTION • Colossians 1:11-12

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

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Gospel-Centered Life Home Group • Sun., Feb. 15 after Worship and Sunday School, at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope. Join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation about the centrality of the Gospel in our lives and relationships. Children are welcome. RSVP to Joe (joepope@comcast.net).

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.

Women's Discipleship Study • 9:30am Fri., 2/20, and 3/6, location TBA. Larissa Friesen is leading discussions of *The Trellis And The Vine*, by Marshall and Payne. If you're interested in women's ministries, relationships, or personal discipleship, we highly recommend that you attend these meetings!

Generous Justice Home Group • Sun., Feb. 22 at the home of Matthew and Kristine Manary.

Moms' Group • This is a great time for community for mothers and their young children, whether they're "regulars" at Ascension or not. It's worth the effort of packing up the kids and getting out of the house! And please feel free to attend even if your kids are already in school. Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

• 10am Tue., Feb. 24 at Manaia Coffee House (2nd & Main, downtown Hillsboro)

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

Today: Hamilton Next Sunday: Ryerson

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

Today: C. Boden Next Sunday: Hamilton

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)

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.