



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

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


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 • Acts 3:19-21

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord Jesus Christ, Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper, born in my birth, alive in my life, strong in my character, dominating my faculties, following me as a shadow, intermingling with my every thought, my chain that holds me captive. Yet your compassions yearn over me, your heart hastens to my rescue, your love endured my curse, your mercy bore my justice. Let me walk in humility, bathed in your blood, tender of conscience, living in triumph as an heir of salvation through your blessed name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Acts 5:30-31

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

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

OFFERING • Ephesians 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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.

GOSEL READING • Matthew 3:13 – 4:11

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

Our Father in the heavens, you do all that you please. You are sovereign over everything that you have made. Nothing can thwart your holy will. You have declared the end from the beginning, and you will accomplish all your purpose.

We trust that you love us, and that you order our lives for our good and your glory. Help us where our faith is weak. Grant us peace that passes understanding in the midst of the trials of this life. We rejoice and rest in your perfect, fatherly care.

Please, Father, make the earth more like heaven.

Be present with us through your Holy Spirit. Comfort and heal those who are sick in mind, heart, and body. Revive dead souls to life, and lift up those who are poor in spirit. Provide for those who are seeking work. Bring justice, peace, and prosperity to our community, and to the world. Send your Son again soon to make heaven and earth one.

Until that Day, Father, may your will be done in us and through us.

Not our will but yours be done. May the joy of your salvation be our strength as we seek to live for you. We want to be holy as you are holy; teach us the law of love, and help us to obey you. Change our will to align with your own; help us to love what you love, and to hate what you hate. Make our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to you, our Father who is in heaven. In Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis • Music: Thomas J. Williams • Public Domain

Tenor

8
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,
5
Vast un - mea - sured, bound - less, free!
Spread His - praise - from shore - to shore!
Love of ev - ery love the best!
9
Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean In its
How He love - eth, e - ver love - eth, Chang - eth
14
'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing 'Tis a
8
full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me,
nev - er, nev - er - more! How He watch - es
19
hav - en sweet of rest! O the deep, deep
8
all a - round me, Is the cur - rent
O'er His loved ones, Died to call them
23
love of Je - sus, 'Tis a heav'n of
8
of Thy love Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing
all His own; How for them he in - ter -
28
heav'ns to me; And it lifts me up to
8
home - ward To Thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne!
glor - y, For it lifts me up to Thee!

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: *Kingsfold* • Public Domain



I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come ___
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I ___



un - to me ___ and rest; Lay ___ down O wear - y one lay down your ___
hold, I free - ly give The ___ liv - ing wa - ter; thirs - ty one, stoop ___
am this dark ___ world's Light; Look ___ unto Me your morn shall rise, and and ___



soul u - pon ___ my breast." I ___ came to Je - sus as I was ___
down, and drink, ___ and live." I ___ came to Je - sus, and I drank of
all your days ___ be bright." I ___ looked to Je - sus, and I found in



wear - y worn ___ and sad I ___ found in Him my rest - ing place and ___
that life - giv - ing stream; My ___ thirst was quenched my soul re - vived and ___
Him my Star, ___ my Sun; and ___ in that light of life I'll walk till ___



He has made ___ me glad.
now I live ___ in Him.
travel - ing days ___ are done.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:1-7

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Temptation” (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 • 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 • 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. Gluten-free crackers are available on the table.

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.

Glorify Your Name

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Fa - ther we love you we wor - ship and a - dore you,
5 glo - ri - fy your name in all the earth, glo -
9 ri - fy your name, glo - ri - fy
14 your name, glo - ri - fy your name
19 in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

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.

It Takes A Church Home Group • Today after Worship and Sunday School at the home of Eric and Jerilee Costa. We'll begin discussing the centrality of the Church in Christian spirituality using Tod Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian*.

Women's Study • In April, the women will also begin a study of Tod Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian* (the same book being discussed in the home group meeting at the Costa home). Join us at 9am Thursdays at the home of Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany St., Tigard). Contact Larissa Friesen (larissaelaborates@gmail.com) if you are interested!

Women's Breakfast • 9am Sat., Mar. 21 at La Provence (Progress Ridge). RSVP by the 20th to Larissa Friesen (larissaelaborates@gmail.com).

Good Friday Service • 7pm Fri., Apr. 3 in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Breakfast • 8:30am Sun., Apr. 5. See the email newsletter for a link to the food signup sheet, or contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Church Campout • Aug. 28-30 (Friday through Sunday) at Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham on the Sandy River. *More details forthcoming...*

Music Group • 6:30pm Wednesdays at the Costa home. Contact: Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Friesen 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
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(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