



**ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"  
March 22, 2015

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

  
THE WORD  


**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 105:1-3**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!  
Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

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...**

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a  
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -  
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For  
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his  
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el  
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:  
the Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:  
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
his kingdom is forever.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Almighty Father, God of gods and Lord of lords, Father to the fatherless, Husband to the widow, Defender of the helpless, Judge of all the earth, have mercy on us. We have not sought freedom for the oppressed even though you freed us. We have not bound up the broken even though you healed us. We have not forgiven others even though you forgave us. We withhold kindness from the needy even though you freely gave us your own Son. We are without excuse, but not without hope. By your power and grace, account our sins to Jesus' bloody death and amend our ways by the power of his glorious resurrection.*

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 5:1

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

### OFFERING • Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### 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](http://ascensionpc.org/sermons/the-lords-prayer) to learn more about prayer.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • Romans 3:10-18

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 who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amidst the conflicts of this world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you.

From pride and selfishness, greed and anger, spring passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as war among nations:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who suffer in body and circumstance, the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> 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?’” <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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 • “Sin” (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 Apostles' Creed

What do you believe?

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.<sup>1</sup> The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>2</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

<sup>1</sup> When the Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell," we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

<sup>2</sup> Or, "universal."

# Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -  
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy  
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy  
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,  
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,  
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;  
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the  
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could  
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the  
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.  
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.  
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me  
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for  
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

*(Chorus)*

# Be Still, My Soul

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752 • Music: *Finlandia*, arr. Jean Sibelius • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your  
4 Be still, my soul: your God will un - der  
8 Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de -  
8 side; \_\_\_\_\_ bear pa - tient - ly the  
4 take \_\_\_\_\_ to guide the - fu - ture  
7 part, \_\_\_\_\_ and all is dark - ened  
8 cross of grief or pain; \_\_\_\_\_ leave to your  
10 as he has the of past, \_\_\_\_\_ Your hope, your  
8 in the vale of tears, \_\_\_\_\_ then shall you  
8 God to or - der and pro - vide; \_\_\_\_\_  
13 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; \_\_\_\_\_  
8 bet - ter know his love, his heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
8 \_\_\_\_\_ in ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re -  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at  
8 \_\_\_\_\_ who come to soothe your sor - row and your  
8 main. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: your  
19 last. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: the  
8 fears. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: your  
8 best, your heav'n - ly Friend \_\_\_\_\_ through thorn - y  
22 waves and winds still know \_\_\_\_\_ his voice who  
8 Je - sus can re - pay \_\_\_\_\_ from his own  
8 ways \_\_\_\_\_ leads to a joy - ful end.  
8 ruled \_\_\_\_\_ them while he dwelt be - low.  
8 full - ness all he takes a - way.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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

## **BENEDICTION • 1 Corinthians 1:3**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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**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 Study** • In April, the women will 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!

**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: Hamilton      Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Hamilton      Next Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.