

**ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Genesis 1-3: "The Beginning Of The End"  
April 19, 2015

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

  
THE WORD  


**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 113:1-3**

Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD!  
Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

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.

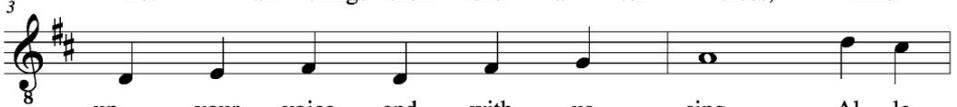
The Triune God is a singing God (Zeph. 3:14-17)! So it is fitting to respond to him with **singing...**

# All Creatures Of Our God And King

Text: Francis of Assisi • Music: *Giestliche Kirchengesänge* (1623) • Public Domain



All crea - tures of our God and King, lift  
Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye  
Thou flow - ing wat - er pure and clear, make  
And all ye men of ten - der heart, For -  
Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And



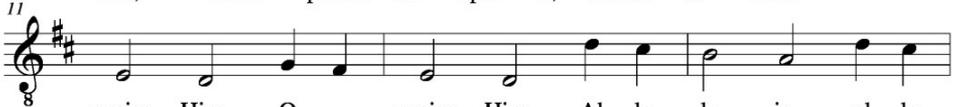
up your voice and with us sing Al - le -  
clouds that sail in heav'n a - long, O  
mu - sic for thy Lord to hear, Al - le -  
giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, O  
wor - ship Him in hum - ble - ness, O



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en  
praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn in praise re -  
lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and  
sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row  
praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fath - er, praise the



beam, thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O  
joice, Ye lights of eve - ning find a voice,  
bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light,  
bear, Praise God and on Him cast your care!  
Son, And praise the Spir - it, Three in One!



praise Him, O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Forgive us, Lord, for how we have corrupted your good creation. Gracious Lord, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no one can stand. Your mercy is our only hope and we ask for your forgiveness. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. We pray these things in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

### OFFERING • Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

### 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.

## GOSPEL READING • John 12:27-33

<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

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, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

*Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.*

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.

*Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.*

Jesus, you are full of compassion.

*Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.*

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

*Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.*

And teach us to pray as you taught your 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.*

# Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots • Music: *Kentucky Harmony* (1820), arr. Chip Ueltschey

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score is numbered 1, 3, 5, and 7 at the beginning of each system.

1  
"For - give our sins as we \_\_\_ for - give," you  
How can your par - don reach \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ bless the  
In blaz - ing light your cross \_\_\_ re - veals the  
Lord, cleanse the depths with - in \_\_\_ our \_\_\_ souls, and

3  
taught us, Lord, to pray; but  
un - for - giv - ing heart that  
truth we dim - ly knew: what  
bid re - sent - ment cease; then,

5  
you a - lone can grant \_\_\_ us \_\_\_ grace to  
broods on \_\_\_ wrongs and will \_\_\_ not \_\_\_ let old  
triv - ial \_\_\_ debts are owed \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ us, how  
bound to \_\_\_ all in bonds \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ love, our

7  
live the words we say.  
bit - ter - ness de - part?  
great our debt to you!  
lives will spread your peace.

# My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Text: Edward Mote • Music: William Bradbury • Public Domain



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and  
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-  
3 His oath, his co-ve-nant, his blood, sup-port me in the  
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



right eous-ness: I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but  
chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and stor-my gale, my  
whelm ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he  
him be found: dressed in his right eous-ness a-lone, fault-



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.  
an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the so-lid  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be-fore the throne.



Rock, I stand: all o-ther ground is



sin-king sand; all o-ther ground is sin-king sand.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Genesis 3:14-15**

- 14 The LORD God said to the serpent,  
“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.
- 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “The Curse And The Promise (1)” (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 Heidelberg Catechism, 1**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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.

# A Hymn To God The Father

A Poem by John Donne • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Wilt Thou for - give that sin where I be - gun, which  
5 was my sin, though it were done be - fore? Wilt Thou for -  
10 give that sin through which I run, and do run still, though  
15 still I do de - plore? When Thou hast  
19 done, — Thou hast not done, — for I have more, — I have  
25 more. When Thou hast done, — Thou hast not done,  
30 — for I have more, — I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won  
others to sin, and made my sin their door?  
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun  
a year or two, but wallow'd in a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,  
for I have more, I have more. (2x)

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun  
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
but swear by thyself, that at my death thy sun  
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.

And, having done that, thou hast done.  
I fear no more. I fear no more. (2x)

# How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Text & Music: Stuart Townend • ©1995 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Deep The Father's Love For Us'. It consists of ten staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 15 indicated on the left side of the staves.

How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how  
Be - hold the man up - on the cross, my  
I will not boast in an - y thing, no  
vast be - yond all mea - sure, that  
sin up - on His should - ers; a -  
gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but  
He should give His on - ly Son to  
shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His  
make a wretch His trea - sure. How  
out a - mong the scof - fers. It  
death and res - ur - rect - ion. Why  
great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns His  
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac -  
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an  
face a - way as wounds which mar the  
com - plished. His dy - ing breath has  
an - swer, but this I know with  
cho - sen one bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
brought me life, I know that it is fin - ished.  
all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

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

## **BENEDICTION • Romans 16:20**

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

~

**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.

**Home Group** • Next Sunday (Apr. 26) after Worship and Sunday School, at the home of Eric and Jerilee Costa (1890 SE Maple St., Hillsboro). Join us for lunch, prayer, and conversation about Tod Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian*. Children are welcome. RSVP (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

**Church Campout** • Aug. 28-30 (Friday through Sunday) at Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham on the Sandy River. Contact Tim Sery to reserve a spot.

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

Today: Childers      Next Sunday: Costa

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

Today: Sery      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.