

"The mission of Jesus is not for condemnation (the same Greek word means 'condemnation' and 'judgment') but salvation. Nevertheless, the very presence of Jesus constitutes a judgment—realized eschatology."

Raymond Brown

"What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love."

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

"Your problem ain't hell. It's you."

Dean Winchester, "Supernatural"

# ASCENSION

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day  
November 6, 2016



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 66:1-2**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise!

# Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton • Music: American Melody • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.'

A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that  
5 saved a wretch like me! I once was  
10 lost but now am found was blind but  
14 now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;  
he will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • John 3:16-17**

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Father, Son, and Spirit—our Triune God—you are the only true and living God. We know that you alone are good, yet we still turn to false gods for strength, for pleasure, for comfort, for life. But this is death. We confess that we have sinned, both in the evil we have done, and in the good we have done in order to avoid you. We do not know all the ways our hearts are far from you; we have deceived ourselves. We cannot even confess every sin, or know all our false gods, to turn away from them to you. We are utterly at your mercy. O Lord Jesus, be gracious to us. O Father, assure us of your love that makes all things new. O Holy Spirit, dwell in us and have your way with us. We pray in Christ our Savior. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 19:30**

Jesus said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Luke 6:38**

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

## **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.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING • Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

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...

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 adore 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 thank 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.*

## 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 six 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.

# For All The Saints

Text: William H. How • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1998 Christopher Miner

Tenor

8 For all the saints who from this  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for- tress  
4 la - bor's rest to thee by - faith be-fore the  
8 and their might; thou Lord their cap-tain in the  
6 world con - fess thy name O Je - sus, be for -  
8 well fought fight; thou in the dark-ness drear, their  
e - ver blessed, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.  
one true light, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu.

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Alelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest,  
Alleluia, Alelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

**GOSPEL READING • John 3:16-21**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

**SERMON • “Love and Judgment” (Rev. Eric Costa)**



For GOD

SO LOVED

*the world that*

*He gave His ONE*

*and only SON*

*that whoever*

BELIEVES

*in HIM*

*shall not*

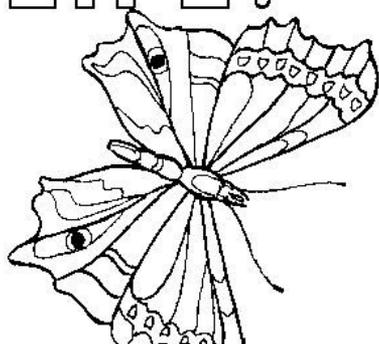
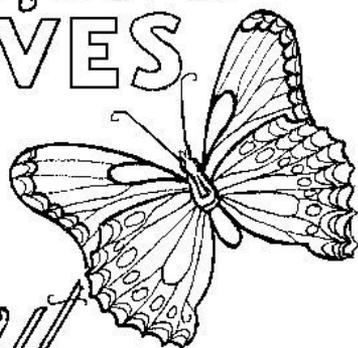
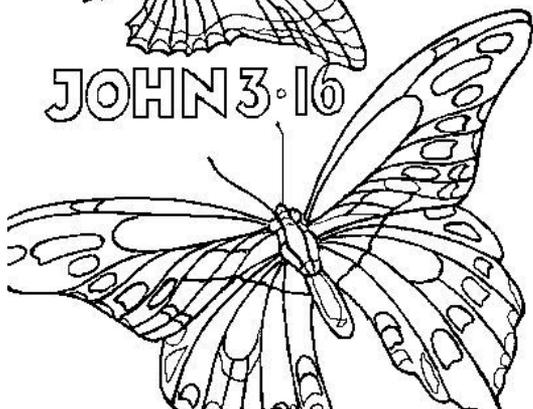
*perish but*

*have*

ETERNAL

LIFE.

JOHN 3:16





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 one another 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**

(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. There are gluten-free crackers on the table. An Elder is available in the back for prayer [James 5:13-16].)

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<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.”

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Text: George Matheson • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1997 Christopher Miner



O Love that will not let me go, I  
O Light that follow'st all my way, I  
O Joy that seek'st me through pain, I  
O Cross that lift'st up my head, I



rest my weary soul in thee; I  
yield my flick'ring torch to thee; My  
can not close my heart to thee; I  
dare not ask to fly from thee; I



give thee back the life I owe, That  
heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, That  
trace the rain-bow through the rain, And  
lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, And



in thine ocean depths its flow May  
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day May  
feel the promise is not vain, That  
from the ground there blossoms red Life



ri-cher, full-er be.  
bright-er, fair-er be.  
morn shall tear-less be.  
that shall end-less be.

# 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.

## BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself  
give you peace at all times in every way.  
The Lord be with you all.

~

*Remember:* every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church!

**Photo Directory** • Bill Duncan will be taking pictures the next few Sundays (weather permitting!). If you would like your picture taken, see Bill. If you need your information added to or updated in the directory, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Sunday School** • After Worship, and some time for fellowship and coffee, join us for Sunday School. Kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes. Adults will meet in the fellowship hall for sermon discussion (young children are welcome to accompany their parents).

**Mercy Sunday** • 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 a great opportunity to talk with our kids about generosity and service as a regular part of our lives as Christians.

**Serve a Meal** • Wed., Nov. 9... The teachers at W. L. Henry have a couple of very busy days of parent-teacher conferences coming up, and have asked if our church can provide dinner for them on-site. Everyone interested in helping with the cost, preparation, and/or service of the meal for about 20 teachers, please contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

**New Women's Study** • 7pm Tue., Nov. 15 at the home of Diane Childers (685 S. 20th Ave., Cornelius).

**Regular Gatherings** • For information about our meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit [ascensionpc.org/calendar](http://ascensionpc.org/calendar).

### Nursery Volunteers

Today: Jaques      Next Sunday: Childers

### Refreshments Volunteers

(Contact: Nicole Hamilton, [neh.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:neh.hamilton@gmail.com))

Today: Whipple      Next Sunday: Costa



**Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro**  
**[ascensionpc.org](http://ascensionpc.org) • [facebook.com/ascensionpc](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionpc) • [twitter.com/ascensionpc](https://twitter.com/ascensionpc)**

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(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)

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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.