



# ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2016



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • John 15:9**

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love.”

~

(First candle) *We light this candle in hope.*

(Second candle) *We light this candle for peace.*

(Third candle) *We light this candle with joy.*

(Fourth candle) *We light this candle in love.*

# The People That In Darkness Sat

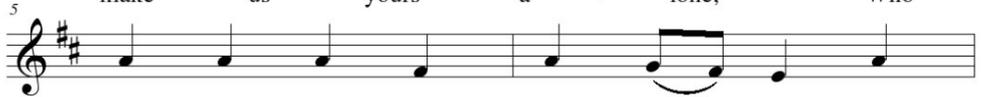
Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a  
To hail you, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, the  
To us the Child of hope is born, to  
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the  
His righ - teous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall  
Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and



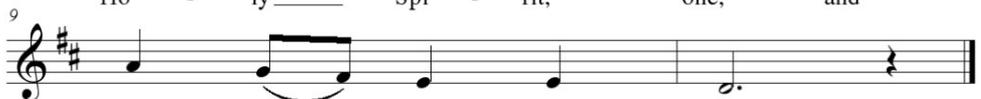
glo - rious light have seen; The  
gath - 'ring na - tions come; They  
us the Son is giv'n, And  
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The  
o - ver all ex - tend; On  
make us yours a - lone, Who



light has shined on them who long in  
joy as when the reap - ers bear their  
on his shoul - der ev - er rests all  
Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the  
judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his  
with the Fa - ther ev - er are and



shades of death have been, in  
har - vest trea - sures home, their  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all  
God by all a - dored, the  
reign shall have no end, his  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, one, and



shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored.  
reign shall have no end.  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, one.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

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

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

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.*

(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 • 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

## **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 • 1 Corinthians 13**

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...

We extol you our God and King. You exist in the mystery of the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*You live independent of all that you have created. You uphold and govern your creation by your wise and holy providence. Your wisdom is unsearchable, and your thoughts are higher than ours. Your justice is absolute and perfectly fair. There is none like you, the Holy One of Israel.*

Yet, as our great God and King, you show mercy and compassion to your creatures.

*You dwell with the meek and lowly. Your tender mercies are over all of your works. The broken spirit and the contrite heart you do not despise. You live with us in grace as our Father.*

We come to you now through our Lord Jesus Christ to plead for your care for the Church.

*Strengthen the churches that proclaim your gospel. Bless the churches and church plants of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery, and especially our church here at Ascension.*

We pray also for your help and blessing for our city.

*Grant your help and protection to our Mayor and City Council. Please bring financial prosperity to our city. Make Hillsboro a more just and merciful and peaceful community. Help your people to benefit our city and to reflect your grace in our callings.*

Father, we thank you for the mercy and kindness you have shown to us in this country.

*Give us wisdom in the use of our wealth. We ask for purity in the use of our freedoms. We ask that our leaders might serve with humility, compassion and justice.*

Our Savior, we appeal to your great compassion for help to those among us who are suffering.

*Heal those who are sick. Encourage those who are discouraged and depressed. Provide for those who are struggling financially. Comfort those who are grieving. Give hope to those who are suffering in guilt and doubt.*

Our great God, we ask you to hear us and to work in us that which is pleasing to you, as we pray in the words our Savior taught us:

*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.*

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Hymn • Public Domain

Alto

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and  
ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that  
mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of  
God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra -  
el.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry over the grave.

*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*(Chorus)*

# Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

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: 'An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing  
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply  
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis  
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

*(Chorus)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

*(Chorus)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Hosea 2:14-23**

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.

15 And there I will give her her vineyards  
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

16 “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will  
you call me ‘My Baal.’ 17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and  
they shall be remembered by name no more. 18 And I will make for them a covenant on  
that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of  
the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make  
you lie down in safety. 19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in  
righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in  
faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

21 “And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,  
I will answer the heavens,  
and they shall answer the earth,  
22 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and they shall answer Jezreel,  
23 and I will sow her for myself in the land.  
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,  
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;  
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

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

**SERMON • “Love” (Rev. Eric Costa)**





THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • Colossians 1:15-20**

Who is 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 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].)

# Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music

Tenor

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice part. It consists of five staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The lyrics are: 'A - bide with me; fastfallthe e - ven - Thou on my head,in ear - ly youth didst tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a - smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean - bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me. Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.'

A - bide with me; fastfallthe e - ven -  
Thou on my head,in ear - ly youth didst  
tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a -  
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -  
bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts  
while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left  
flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.  
Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

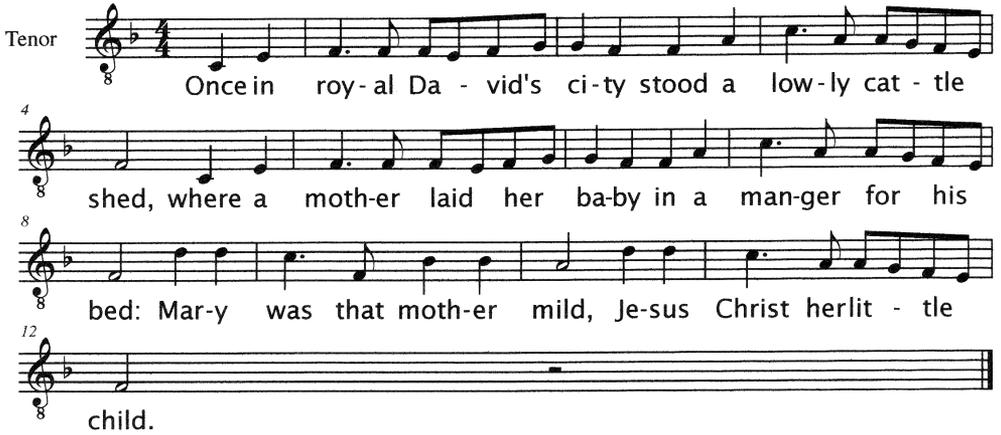
I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.  
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

# Once In Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander • Music: Henry J. Gauntlett • Public Domain

Tenor



8

Once in roy-al Da - vid's ci-ty stood a low-ly cat - tle

4

8

shed, where a moth-er laid her ba-by in a man-ger for his

8

8

bed: Mar-y was that moth-er mild, Je-sus Christ her lit - tle

12

8

child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall be around.

# Hosanna In The Highest

Text: The Book of Common Prayer • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Public Domain

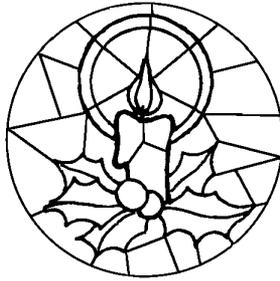
Tenor

8 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the  
O Sav - ior with pro - tect - ing care, a - bide in this thy  
4 Be ho - nor, praise, and glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and  
liv - ing word! Where we thy par - ting prom - ise claim, as -  
house of prayer; and make our se - cret soul to be, a  
7 all in heav'n, to God the Fa - ther and the Son, and  
semb - led in thy sa - cred name; to Christ, cre - a - tor  
tem - ple pure and ho - ly; be hon - or praise and  
10 God the Spi - rit three in one, be hon - or praise and  
Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heav'n, Ho - san - nas sing! Ho - san - na!  
glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n.  
14 glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n! —  
— Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est! —

To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;  
a child born meek and lowly, the infant King of Glory!  
To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!

## BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called,  
beloved in God the Father  
and kept for Jesus Christ:  
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.



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

**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).

**Finance Report (through Oct.)** • Giving: \$119k Expenses: \$112k Account Balance: \$60k

**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: Hamilton Next Sunday: Childers

### Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Sery Next Sunday: K. Boden



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.