

“A belief which requires signs and wonders is one which lays down in advance the conditions which are required to authenticate any alleged revelation of God. It is thus guilty of putting the constructions of the human imagination—often a very pious imagination—in the place of God. The belief is not a response to God as he actually reveals himself, for God’s revelation may completely contravene our predetermined view of what God must be and do. It is a projection of our own imagination...

The demand for a visible sign means that the one who makes the demand keeps ultimate sovereignty in his own hands. He has prescribed the tests by which divinity must prove itself. So the demand for signs and wonders is refused.”

Lesslie Newbigin



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord’s Day
January 29, 2017



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 98:1-4

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "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 music 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

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' 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 • 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 • 2 Kings 5:1-14

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 the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all; how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

Increase the peace and purity and unity of this congregation. Strengthen the church of Christ in our city. Protect and stand with our brothers and sisters everywhere who are being persecuted for their faith.

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

Heal those who are sick. Give your grace and peace to those facing imminent death and to those who care for them. Comfort those who are grieving. Sit closely with those who are lonely. Provide for those who are seeking work. Free those who are struggling with enslaving sins.

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Increase the spread of the Gospel in and through our city, to the world. We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The Love of God

Music and Lyrics by F. M. Lehman (1917) • Public Domain

The love of God is great-er far— than
When years of time shall pass a - way, and
tongue or pen can ev - er tell; It goes be -
earth - ly thrones and king-doms fall, When men, who
yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the
here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and
low - est hell; The guil - ty pair, bowed down with care,
moun-tains call, God's love so sure, shall still en - dure,
God gave His Son to win; His er - ring child
all mea - sure - less and strong; re - deem - ing grace
He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin.
to A - dam's race; the saints and an - gel's song.
O love of God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure -
less and strong! It shall forev - er - more en - dure
the saints and an - gels song!

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—the saints and angel's song!*

(Repeat chorus)

Victory In The Lamb

Text & Music: Wesley Randolph Eader • © 2014 Door of Hope

He will clothe the poor with crowns
in the kingdom he calls theirs.
He will raise them to the halls of heaven
and release their earthly cares.

And the hard times, they will come.
And the black clouds, they will break.
But his riches come with the morning sun
and they grow green fields of grace.

(Chorus)

*So let all condemnation cease!
Let guilt have no more claim!
Let the devil lose all dominion!
For the Lamb of God he came!
And the Lamb of God was slain!
And the Lamb of God was raised!*

We will fix our wandering eyes
on the wonders of our Lord.
By his sacred stripes we have been healed,
through his wounds our joys supplied.

(Chorus)

Now the strong ones and the weak
are the same under his blood.
For empty-handed all must come
to receive his endless love.

(Chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 4:43-54

After the two days he departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) ⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "Signs and Faith" (Rev. Eric Costa)





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 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.

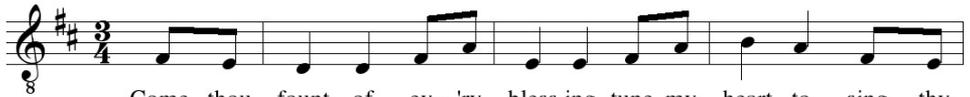
The gifts of God for the people of God.

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].)

Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

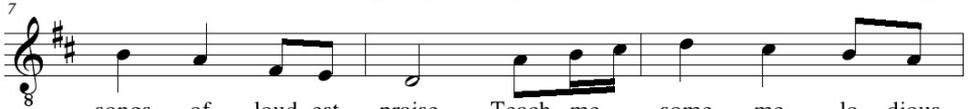
Text: Robert Robinson (1758) • Music: Asahel Nettleton (1825) • Public Domain



Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing tune my heart to sing thy
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for
come; and I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly
be; Let that grace, now, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
wand' - ring heart to thee. Prone to wand - er - Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God: he, to
feel it - prone to leave the God I love: Here's my



mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Abide With Me

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

Tenor

8 A - bide with me; — fastfallthe e - ven -
3 Thou on my head,in — ear - ly youth didst
6 tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a -
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -
9 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.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Tenor' and has a '8' below it. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff is labeled '3' and has an '8' below it. The third staff is labeled '6' and has an '8' below it. The fourth staff is labeled '9' and has an '8' below it. The fifth staff has an '8' below it. 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.'

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.

BENEDICTION • John 14:27

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

~

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).

Setup Help Needed • If you can help Robert with setup once a month, please contact Joe Hamilton (joehamilton10@georgefox.edu).

Mercy Sunday • Feb. 5... 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. To sign up to bring food supplies, contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Congregational Meeting • Feb. 5 after Worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect Joe Hamilton to the office of Deacon.

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Feb. 18 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). Each time we meet we discuss a phrase of the Apostles' Creed. This time: "He Ascended into Heaven." (Keep an eye on applyingthegospel.com this week for the blog post we'll discuss together.) Bring a friend! RSVP and let Eric know if you can help by bringing part of the meal (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

School Garden Service Project • 9am - 12pm, Sat., March 11 at W. L. Henry Elementary. Come help us improve the garden for classroom teaching. Contact Jerilee (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., March 17-19 in Lincoln City... Stay tuned for more details!

Regular Gatherings • For information about our meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit ascensionpc.org/calendar.

Nursery Volunteers

Today: Childers Next Sunday: Aznoe

Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: K. Boden Next Sunday: Sery



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