



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 2, 2017


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 55:1-3a

*“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.”*

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David* (Geneva, 1551) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

3 Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.

5 To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!

7 Tell them that their war is o - ver, God will reign in peace for - ev - er!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 147:2-3

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
 he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted
 and binds up their wounds.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 147:11

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
 in those who hope in his steadfast love.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Malachi 3:10

"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

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 • Exodus 2:23 – 3:10

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 Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to reign in justice as our King:

Cause our President and Congress to love justice and mercy. Help our Mayor and City Council to increase the peace of the city.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

Restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. Destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. Protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to bring us peace with God:

Bring peace between nations in Your world; help Ascension to live in your peace together; come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

Show mercy to our friends who do not yet know you; deepen our faith in the Gospel of grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy death and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Comfort those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to sympathize with our weaknesses:

Please hear us as we bring you our specific requests. (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you 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.

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".

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.

God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800) • Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy
©2007 Red Mountain Music



1. God of my life to Thee I _____ call;
2. Friend of the friend - less and the _____ faint,
3. That were a grief I could not _____ bear,



Af - flict - ed at Thy _____ feet I _____ fall;
Where should I lodge my _____ deep com - - - - - pain?
Didst Thou not hear and _____ an - - - - - swer _____ prayer;



When the great wa - ter floods pre - - - - - vail,
Where but with Thee whose o - - - - - pen _____ door,
But a prayer - hear - ing, an - - - - - swer - ing _____ God,



Leave not my tremb - ling heart to _____ fail.
In - - - - - vites the help - less and the _____ poor?
Sup - ports me un - der _____ ev - 'ry _____ load.



Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, _____ Yet God, my God, for -



gets me not; _____ And he is safe, and must suc -



ceed, For whom, the Lord is sure to _____ plead. _____

GOSPEL READING • John 8:31-36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “True Freedom” (Rev. Eric Costa)





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. 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[†] 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 for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

* 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.

† Or, “universal.”

Peace, Perfect Peace

Text: Edward H. Bickersteth (1875) • Music: Matthew H. Curl (2008) • Used by Permission

Tenor



8
Peace, per-fect peace, in this dark world of
4
Peace, per-fect peace, with sor-rows surg-ing
8
sin, the blood of Je-sus whis-pers peace with -
8
round, on Je-sus' bo-som naught but calm is
8
in. Peace, perfect peace, by throng-ing du-ties
12
found. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far a -
8
pressed, to do the will of Je-sus, this is rest.
17
way, in Je-sus' keep-ing we are safe and they.
8
It is e-nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when
21
Je-sus calls us to heaven's per-fect peace. It is e-
26
nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when Je-sus calls us
30
home to a per-fect peace.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown,
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
Peace, perfect peace, death shadows us and ours,
Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.
*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us to heaven's perfect peace.*
*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us home to a perfect peace.*

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)

BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make you increase and abound
in love for one another and for all.

~

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

After Worship • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation.

Mercy Sunday • Today we will collect a special offering—*Alms*—during the Lord's Supper, to help meet needs in our congregation and community.

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., July 8 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). Each time we meet we discuss a phrase of the Apostles' Creed. This time: "The Communion of Saints." (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).

Parenting Home Group • Next Sunday (July 9) at the home of Joe & Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany, Tigard). This group meets for lunch and a discussion of Paul Tripp's book, *Parenting*. All are welcome! RSVP (pope.joe@gmail.com).

Church Campout • Aug. 25-27 (Fri. - Sun.) at the Deschutes River State Recreation Area. Like last year, we'll join our sister congregation, Hope PCA (Portland), for the weekend and for worship at the campground (instead of our usual meeting place in Hillsboro). More information coming soon...

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

(Contact: Rainy Aznoe, rainyrr@aol.com)

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Sery

Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Aznoe Next Sunday: Aznoe



Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro

<http://ascension.church> • [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.