

"It was God who went into the far country, and it is man who returns home."

Karl Barth

"If you want to know who the true God is, look long and hard at Jesus."

Tom Wright



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 3, 2017  
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**LIGHTING OF THE PROPHECY CANDLE: *HOPE***

**CALL TO WORSHIP • Nehemiah 9:5-6**

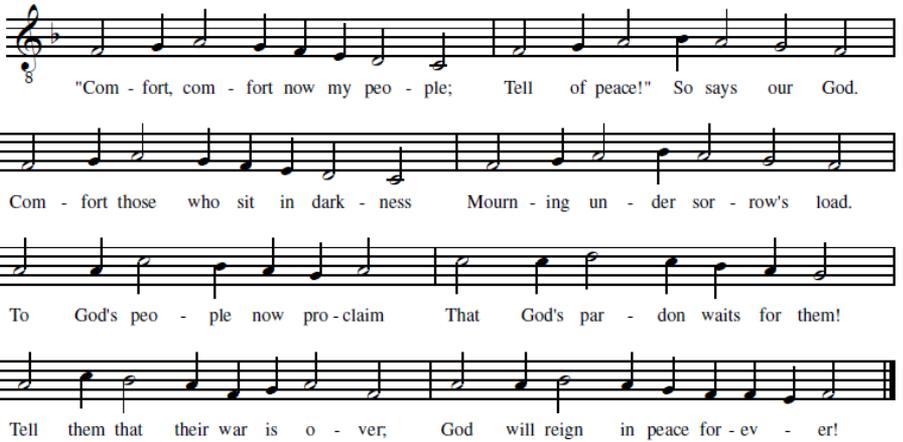
Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

## Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: Louis Bourgeois, *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 • Romans 3:23**

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

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,  
we have lived in open rebellion  
against your gracious rule.*

*Please, Lord Jesus, may we find  
our redemption in your passion,  
the absolution of our guilt in your condemnation,  
the cancellation of our curse in your cross,  
the satisfaction for our sins in your sacrifice,  
our purification in your blood,  
reconciliation to God in your descent into hell,  
the death of our flesh in your tomb,  
immortality in your resurrection,  
our inheritance in your ascension.*

*We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief. 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 • Matthew 6:19-21**

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

## **CHORAL OFFERTORY • “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

### **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.*

**ADVENT READING • Isaiah 40:1-5**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Song of Solomon 5:10-16**

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...

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amidst the conflicts of this world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you.

From pride and selfishness, greed and anger, spring passions that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as war among nations:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who suffer in body and circumstance, the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

*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.*

# Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger  
4 filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:  
7 All glo - ry be to Je - sus! Up-on a cross my  
11 Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still  
15 o-pen wide: All glo - ry be to Je - sus! And this is  
20 love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to  
26 save! All glo - ry be to Je - sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,  
his work of love and mercy done,  
the Father's high ascended Son:  
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,  
because of our Lord's sacrifice,  
new life through him, the crucified:  
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!  
He came to earth our souls to save!  
And this is love! And this is grace!  
That Christ, our God, did come to save!  
All glory be to Jesus.  
All glory be to Jesus.

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

Alto



The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;  
late in time, behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## GOSPEL READING • John 1:1-3, 14, 18

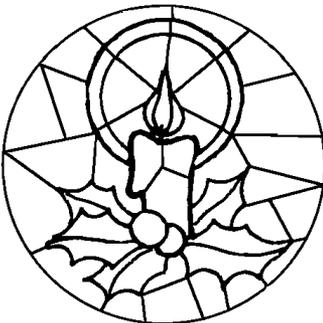
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made...

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

## SERMON • "Who?" (Rev. Eric Costa)



*Man's maker was made man,  
that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast;  
that the Bread might hunger,  
the Fountain thirst,  
the Light sleep,  
the Way be tired on its journey;  
that the Truth might be accused of false witness,  
the Teacher be beaten with whips,  
the Foundation be suspended on wood;  
that Strength might grow weak;  
that the Healer might be wounded;  
that Life might die.*

Augustine, African Bishop (354-430 A.D.)



THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Nicene Creed**

What do you believe?

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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].)

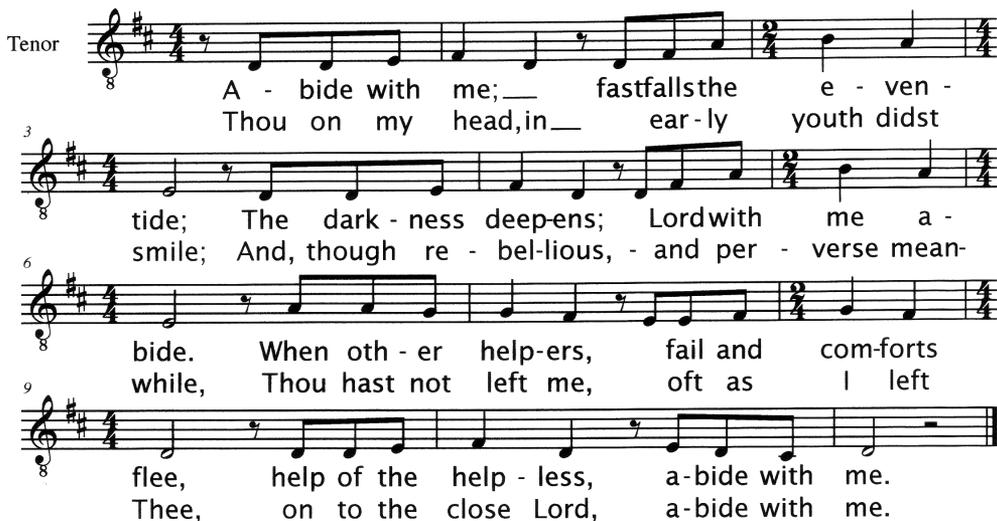
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\* Or, “universal.”

# 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  
8 tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a -  
6 smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -  
8 bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts  
9 while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left  
8 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.

# Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4<sup>th</sup> Century), Martin Luther (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,  
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed  
Mar - y then was found with child,  
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,

3  
8 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der  
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the  
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored  
passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his

6  
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.  
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.  
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.  
Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

9  
8 Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_

15  
8 In the high - - - est!

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is in common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes repeat signs and a double bar line with repeat dots at the end of the first and second systems. The third system starts with a measure rest for three measures before the music begins. The fourth system has a measure rest for eight measures before the music begins. The fifth system has a measure rest for eight measures before the music begins. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,  
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.

Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.

Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

*(Chorus)*

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!

With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

*(Chorus x2)*

# Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frederick Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, 14, and 18. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and  
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

## BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

~

*Remember:* every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church! For information about our regular meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit [ascensionpc.org/calendar](http://ascensionpc.org/calendar).

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**After Worship** • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation. Around 11:45am we start Sunday School—kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes, and 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 (today!) we participate together in a couple different ministries of mercy and compassion. It's good for us to cultivate regular habits like these so that generosity and helping others become "second-nature" to us and to our children...

- Alms—This month's gifts go to our denomination's ministerial relief fund, assisting needy retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children. The alms box is on the table in the back of the sanctuary.
- Food pantry—The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, has many families who rely on help like this. We'll collect your donations after Worship.

**Advent Potluck** • Sun., Dec. 10 after Worship. Instead of Sunday School (and in place of the home group normally scheduled for that day) we'll enjoy a meal together in the fellowship hall. Please bring something to share!

**Refreshments Volunteers** • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Contact: Nicole Hamilton ([neh.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:neh.hamilton@gmail.com))

Today: \_\_\_\_ / Bonifield

Next week: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Nursery Volunteers** • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Join the nursery rotation! Contact: Rainy Aznoe ([rainyrr@aol.com](mailto:rainyrr@aol.com)).

Today: Rickis

Next week: Elliott



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