

"If all the wisdom of the world were gathered into one,
not a spark of true light would be found in that huge heap.
On the contrary, it would be formless chaos,
for it belongs to Christ alone to deliver us from darkness."

John Calvin

"Jesus is not a figure of independent greatness;
he is the Word of God or he is nothing at all."

C. K. Barrett



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 7, 2018



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 34:3-5, 8

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed...

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Text and Music: based on the *Te Deum*, ca. 4th c. • arr. Chip Ueltschey



Ho - ly God, we praise your name;
Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn
Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train
Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son,



Lord of all, we bow be - fore you;
an - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
join your sa - cred name to hal - low;
Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name you;



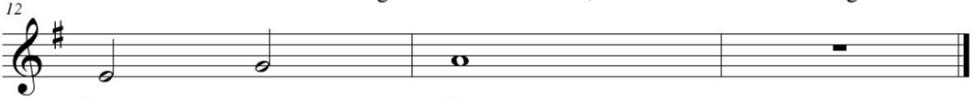
all on earth your scep - ter claim,
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
while in es - sence on - ly One,



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you.
in un - ceas - ing chor - us prais - ing,
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you,



In - fi - nite your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing
fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
and from morn to set of sun, through the church the
and a - dor - ing bend the knee, while we sing this



is your reign.
ho - ly Lord."
song goes on.
mys - ter - y.

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

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. 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 • Acts 20:32, 35

“Now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified... By working hard we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

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 30:15–20

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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...

(Elder prays)

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.

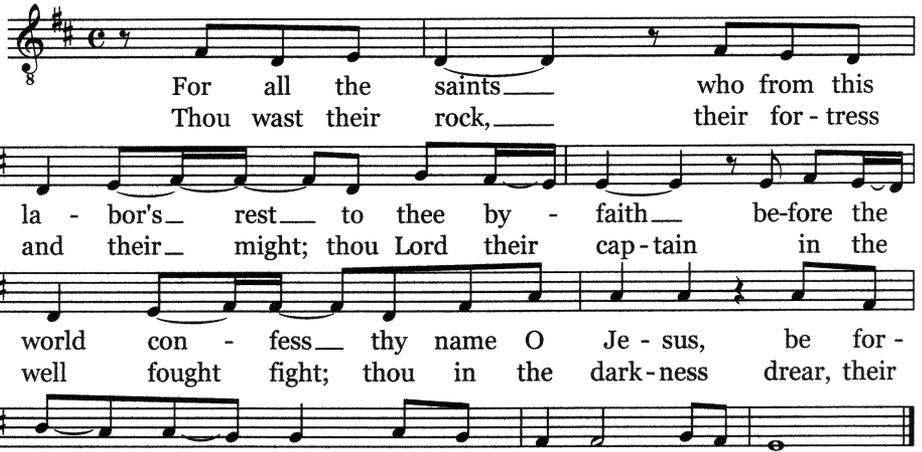
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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.

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

GOSPEL READING • John 12:44-50

And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “The Divine Echo” (Rev. Eric Costa)





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60

How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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].)

God Be Merciful To Me (Psalm 51)

Text: Richard Redhead • Music: Christopher Miner • © 1998 Christopher Miner

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "God be mer - ci - ful to me — on thy grace I rest my plea; plen - te - ous in com - pas - sion Thou — blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me make me pure with - in — cleanse O cleanse me from my sin."

God be mer - ci - ful to me —
on thy grace I rest my plea; plen - te - ous in com -
pas - sion Thou — blot out my trans -
gres - sions now; wash me make me pure
with - in — cleanse O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just; speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach thy wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice;
from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;
thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me, and return O God to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;
touch my silent lips O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.

Love Me To The End

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: Jeff Koonce • ©2006 Red Mountain Music

Tenor



8 A beg - ar poor, at mer - cy's door, lies
A wick - ed heart is no small part, of
3 My stub - born will op - pos - es still, Thy
such a wretch as I; Thou know'st my need is
my dist - ress and shame; Let sover - eign grace its
6 wise and ho - ly hand; Thy spi - rit send to
great in - deed, Lord hear me when I cry.
crimes ef - face, through Jes - sus' bles - sed name.
9 make it bend, to Thy su - preme com - mand.
8 With guilt be - set and deep in debt, for
My dark - ened mind I dail - y find, is
11 Af - fect - ions wild by sin def - iled, oft
pard - on Lord, I pray; O let Thy love suf -
prone to go as - tray; Lord on it shine with
14 hur - ry me a - way; Lord, bring them home nor
fi - cient prove, to take my sins a - way.
light di - vine, and guide it in Thy way.
let them roam, from Christ the Li - ving Way.

Before thy face I've told my case; Lord help and mercy send;
pity my soul and make me whole, and love me to the end.

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.

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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.

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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 — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs among congregants and in the community as we are made aware of them.
- Food pantry — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, has many families who rely on help like this.

Parenting Home Group • Next Sunday (Jan. 14) at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany Street, Tigard). Join us for lunch and conversation about Paul Tripp's book, *Parenting*. RSVP to Joe (pope.joe@gmail.com).

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Ideally, each Sunday we have two volunteers: one bringing snacks for the children, the other bringing something for the adults. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: ____ / ____ 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).

Today: Bonifield Next week: Rickis



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.