



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP
DECEMBER 9, 2018
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

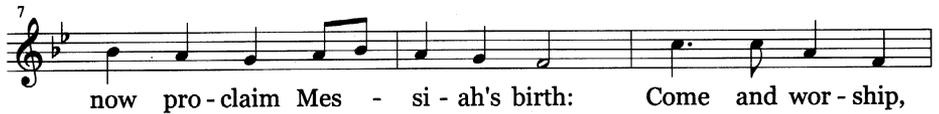


CALL TO WORSHIP • Ephesians 5:14

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Henry Smart • Public Domain



Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.

(Chorus)

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen his natal star.

(Chorus)

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.

(Chorus)

Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you; break your chains.

(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 2 Corinthians 5:20b

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, Son, and Spirit—our Triune God—you are the only true and living God. We know that you alone are good, yet we still turn to false gods for strength, for pleasure, for comfort, for life. But this is death. We confess that we have sinned, both in the evil we have done, and in the good we have done in order to avoid you. We do not know all the ways our hearts are far from you; we have deceived ourselves. We cannot even confess every sin, or know all our false gods, to turn away from them to you. We are utterly at your mercy. O Lord Jesus, be gracious to us. O Father, assure us of your love that makes all things new. O Holy Spirit, dwell in us and have your way with us. We pray in Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 • Revelation 22:1–5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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...

(“Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent,” Book of Common Prayer, 1928)

Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Text: 15th Century German Carol • Translator: Theodore Baker

Music: Michael Praelorius, "Es Ist Ein Ros" • Public Domain



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The
3 This Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der With



ten - der stem__ hath sprung! Of Jes - se's li - neage co -
Rose I have__ in mind: With Ma - ry we be - hold
sweet-ness fills__ the air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen -



ming As men of old__ have sung. It came, a
it, The vir - gin mo - ther kind. To show God's
dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet



flo - wer bright, A - mid the cold of win -
love a - right She bore to men a Sa -
ve - ry God, From sin and death He saves



ter When half - gone was__ the night.
vior When half - gone was__ the night.
us And ligh - tens ev - 'ry load.

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 nine 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."

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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!"

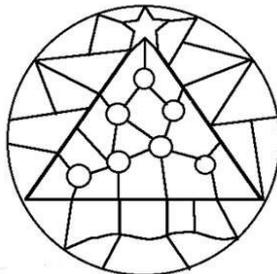
OLD TESTAMENT READING • Hosea 14:4–8

- 4 “I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
- 6 his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
- 7 They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
- 8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Christmas Trees” (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].)

O Lamb Of God, Still Keep Me

Text: James George Deck • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor



O Lamb of God, still keep me near thy-wound-ed side;
'Tis on-ly there in safe-ty and peace I can a-bide.
What foes and snares sur-round me, what
lusts and fears with-in! The grace that sought and
found me, a-lone can keep me clean.

'Tis only in thee hiding, I feel myself secure;
'tis only in thee abiding, the conflict can endure;
thine arm the victory gaineth, o'er every hateful foe;
thy love my heart sustaineth in all its cares and woes.

Soon shall my eyes behold thee with rapture, face to face;
one half hath not been told me of all thy pow'r and grace:
thy beauty, Lord, and glory, the wonders of thy love,
shall be the endless story of all the saints above.

O Holy Night

Text: John S. Dwight • Music: Adolphe Adam • Public Domain

Tenor

8 O ho - ly night - the stars are bright - ly shin -
5 Tru - ly He taught - us to love one a - noth -
8 ing, it is the night of our dear Sav - ior's birth.
10 er, His law is love and His gos - pel is peace.
8 Long lay the world - in sin and er - ror pin -
14 Chains shall He break - the slave he is our bro -
8 ing till He ap - peared and the soul felt its worth.
18 ther, and in His name all op - res - sion shall cease.
8 A thrill of hope the wear - y soul re -
22 Sweet hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus
8 joic - es, for yon - der breaks a new and glor - ious
26 raise we, let all with - in us praise His ho - ly
8 morn. Fall - - - on your knees - - - O hear -
32 name.
8 the an - gel voic - es! O night - - - di -
37 vine - - - O - night - - - when Christ was born!
42 O night! Di - vine! O night!
48 O night di - vine!

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

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

Tenor

"Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!
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.

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.

~

Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite friends, to introduce others 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.

After Worship • Please stay a while for coffee and conversation! Around 11:45am we will begin Sunday School classes for the children in the sanctuary, and Sermon Discussion for the adults in the Fellowship Hall. (Infants and toddlers are welcome to join the adults in Sermon Discussion.)

Setup / Sound Help Needed • If you're available to come before Worship to help with setup, or interested in learning how to operate the sound board during Worship, please contact Joe Hamilton (jhamilton10@georgefox.edu). The help would be much appreciated!

ICS Christmas Gifts • Immigration Counseling Service (ics-law.org) is a non-profit law firm that provides high quality low-cost immigration legal services, outreach, and education to foreign-born residents of Oregon and Southwest Washington, many of whom have become victims of human trafficking. They have greatly appreciated the Christmas gifts we have provided the families of their clients in the past and the need this year is again very great. If you would like to help, contact Sara Sery (the.serys@gmail.com).

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

Today: Elliott

Next week: Hamilton

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.