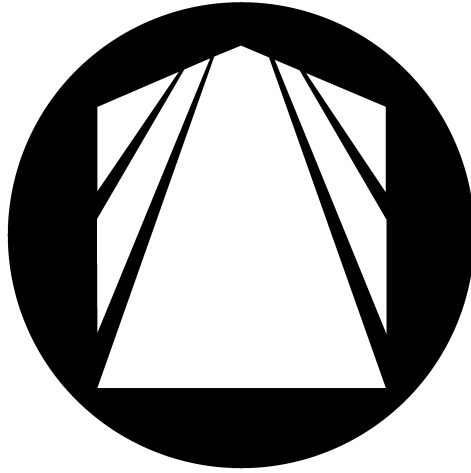


"[In modern literature] a *mystery* is something hidden from you that it's your job to discover. The Greek word, especially as Paul uses it, means exactly the opposite. It means, not something hidden that you have to discover, but *something revealed by God because you would never discover it*, because it's so counterintuitive. In other words: an astonishing, counterintuitive revelation."

Timothy Keller

"Church as the body of Christ is not obvious.
But neither is Jesus as the savior of the world obvious."

Eugene Peterson



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 9, 2015



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • Hebrews 13:15

Through Jesus then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

The People That In Darkness Sat

Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a
 To hail you, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, the
 To us the Child of hope is born, to
 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the
 His righ - teous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall
 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and

3
 glo - rious light have seen; The
 gath - 'ring na - tions come; They
 us the Son is giv'n, And
 Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The
 o - ver all ex - tend; On
 make us yours a - lone, Who

5
 light has shined on them who long in
 joy as when the reap - ers bear their
 on his shoul - der ev - er rests all
 Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
 judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
 with the Fa - ther ev - er are and

7
 shades of death have been, in
 har - vest trea - sures home, their
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, all
 God by all a - dored, the
 reign shall have no end, his
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, one, and

9
 shades of death have been.
 har - vest trea - sures home.
 pow'r in earth and heav'n.
 God by all a - dored.
 reign shall have no end.
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, one.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 32:1-4

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

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 • Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
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 • Ezekiel 47:13-14, 21-23

¹³ Thus says the Lord GOD: "This is the boundary by which you shall divide the land for inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions.

¹⁴ And you shall divide equally what I swore to give to your fathers. This land shall fall to you as your inheritance...

²¹ "So you shall divide this land among you according to the tribes of Israel. ²² You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. ²³ In whatever tribe the sojourner resides, there you shall assign him his inheritance, declares the Lord GOD."

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.

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: *Kingsfold* • Public Domain



I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come ___
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I ___



un - to me ___ and rest; Lay ___ down O wear - y one lay down your ___
hold, I free - ly give The ___ liv - ing wa - ter; thirs - ty one, stoop ___
am this dark ___ world's Light; Look ___ unto Me your morn shall rise, and and ___



soul u - pon ___ my breast." I ___ came to Je - sus as I was ___
down, and drink, ___ and live." I ___ came to Je - sus, and I drank of
all your days ___ be bright." I ___ looked to Je - sus, and I found in



wear - y worn ___ and sad I ___ found in Him my rest - ing place and ___
that life - giv - ing stream; My ___ thirst was quenched my soul re - vived and ___
Him my Star, ___ my Sun; and ___ in that light of life I'll walk till ___



He has made ___ me glad.
now I live ___ in Him.
travel - ing days ___ are done.

Thou Art Coming, O My Savior

Text: Frances Havergal • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Thou art com-ing O my Sav-ior, thou art com-ing
8 Thou art com-ing thou art com-ing; we shall meet thee
4 O the joy to see thee reign-ing, thee, my own be -
8 O my King, in thy beau - ty all - re - splen - dent,
on thy way, we shall see thee, we shall know thee,
7 lov-ed Lord! Ev - 'ry tongue thy name con - fess - ing,
8 in thy glo - ry all tran - scen - dent; well may we re - joice
we shall bless thee, we shall show thee, all our hearts could nev-
worship, hon - or, glo - ry bless - ing, brought to thee with glad
10 - and sing! Com-ing in the o - p'ning east;
8 - er say: what an an - them that will be,
13 - ac - cord; thee, my Mas - ter and my Lord,
8 Her-ald bright-ness slow - ly swells; com-ing O my glo -
ring-ing out our love to thee! Pour-ing out our rap -
vin-di - cat - ed and en - throned; un - to earth's re - mot -
16 - rious Priest!, Hear we not thy gold - en feet?
8 - ture sweet, at thy own all glo - rious feet.
- est end, glo - ri - fied, a - dored, A - men!

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Ephesians 3:1-13

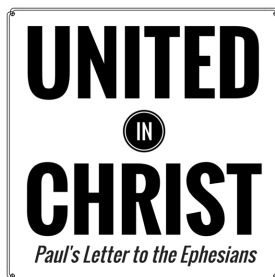
¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Gospel Mystery” (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.¹ 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 catholic² 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 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].)

¹ 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.

² Or, “universal.”

Peace, Perfect Peace

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

Used by Permission

Tenor

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

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 Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

~

Side By Side Conversations • 9am Sundays. Join us this summer for discussions of Ed Welch’s book, Side By Side: Walking With Others In Wisdom And Love. Next week (Aug. 16): chapters 15-16.

Church Campout • Aug. 28-30 (Friday through Sunday) at Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham on the Sandy River. Contact Tim Sery to reserve a spot.

Nursery Volunteers • Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Today: Sery Next Sunday: Friesen

Refreshments Volunteers • Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com).

Today: Sery Next Sunday: Hamilton

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



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Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
ascensionpc.org • facebook.com/ascensionpc • twitter.com/ascensionpc

(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.