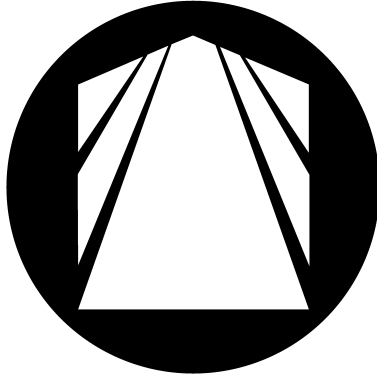


"We are not a utopian community... Maybe the church as we have it provides the very conditions and proper company congenial for growing up in Christ, for becoming mature, for arriving at the measure of the stature of Christ. Maybe God knows what he is doing, giving us church, this church."

Eugene Peterson

"Everyone's job is important! We all help in different ways!"

Daniel Tiger



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 6, 2015



CALL TO WORSHIP • 1 Chronicles 16:28-30

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 145:18-20

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:2-4

“When you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

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 • Psalm 1

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...

(Te Deum Laudamus, 5th Century)

You are God.

We praise you!

You are the Lord.

We acclaim you!

You are the eternal Father.

All creation worships you!

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!*

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

Father, of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free,

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Amen.

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)

The Trinity For Eternity

Text: Catherine Winkworth • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now, our
Un - seal our lips, to sing your praise, our
5 Un - til we join the hosts that cry, "Ho-
8 hearts in true de - vo - tion bow.
souls to you in wor - ship raise.
9 ly are you! O Lord most high!"
8 Your Spi - rit send, with grace di - vine, and
Make strong our faith, in - crease our light, that
13 And in the light of that blest place, for -
8 let your truth with - in us shine. Glo - ry
we may know your name a - right.
18 e'er be - hold you face to face.
8 to God! The Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!
23 To You, Lord all praise! The Trin - i - ty,
28 for e - ter - ni - ty!

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Ephesians 4:1-16

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

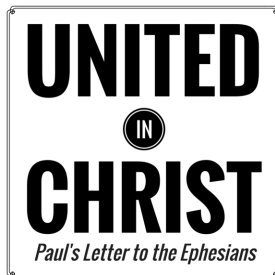
“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

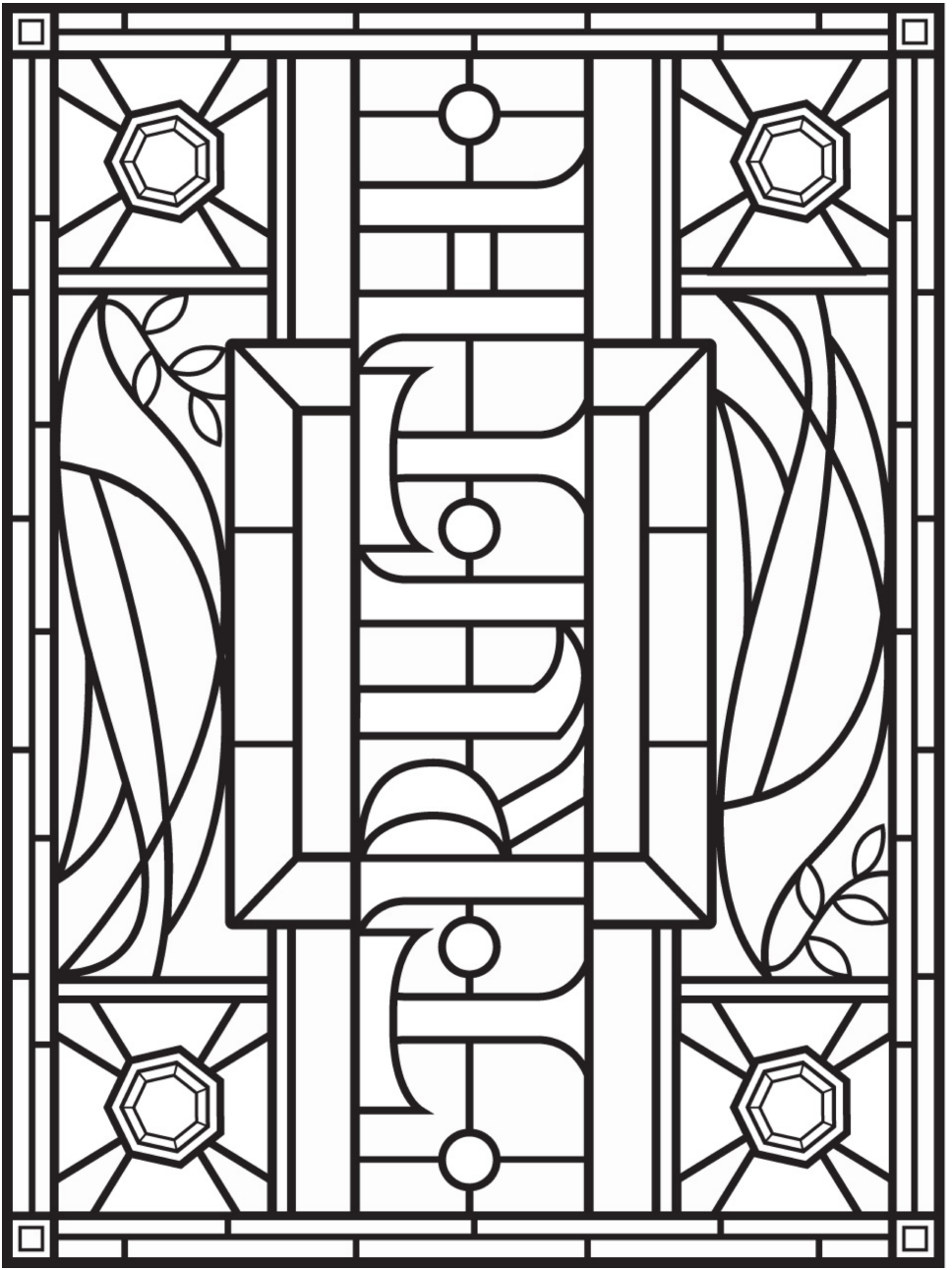
⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Church Maturity” (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 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].)

In Mercy Broken

Lyric: Reginald Heber • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro -
5 Look on the heart by sor - row bro -
8 ken ken Wine of the
9 Look on the
8 soul, in mer - cy shed
13 tears by sin - ners shed
8 By whom the words of life were spo - ken,
18 And be thy feast to us the to - ken
8 And in whose death our sins are
22 That by thy grace our souls are
8 dead. Al - le - lu -
26 fed. Al - le - lu - - -
8 ia! Al - le - lu - - -
31 ia!

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a Tenor voice part. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a variety of note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests. There are repeat signs at the end of the 22nd and 31st staves. The lyrics are: 'Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Look on the heart by sorrow broken, Wine of the world, Look on the soul, in mercy shed tears by sinners shed, By whom the words of life were spoken, And be thy feast to us the token, And in whose death our sins are fed, That by thy grace our souls are dead. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!'.

And Can It Be?

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Thomas Campbell • Public Domain



And can it be that I _____ should _____ gain an
'Tis mys - tery all: th'Im - mor - tal _____ dies: who
Long my im - pri - soned spi - rit _____ lay, fast
5 No con - dem - na - tion now _____ I _____ dread; Je -



in - t'rest _____ in the _____ Sav - ior's blood? Died he for
can _____ ex - plore His _____ strange de - sign? In vain the
bound _____ in _____ sin and _____ na - ture's night, Thine eye dif -
10 sus _____ and _____ all in _____ Him, is mine; A - live in



me, _____ who caused his pain? For me, _____ who him _____ to
first - born ser - aph tries to sound _____ the depths _____ of
fused _____ a quick - ening ray; I woke, _____ the dung - eon
15 Him, _____ my liv - ing Head, and clothed _____ in right - eous -



death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love! How _____ can _____ it _____
love de - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let _____ earth _____ a -
flamed with light; My chains fell off, my _____ heart _____ was _____
20 ness di - vine, Bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal _____



be _____ that thou _____ my God, _____ shouldst die _____ for
dore, _____ let an - gel minds _____ in - quire _____ no
free, _____ I rose, _____ went forth, _____ and fol - lowed
24 throne, _____ and claim _____ the crown, _____ through Christ _____ my



me? A - maz - ing love! How can it be that
more. _____
Thee. _____
29 own. _____



thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

BENEDICTION • Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

~

Mercy Sunday • Today we'll collect a special offering (*Alms*) during the Lord's Supper, to help meet needs in our congregation and community. After Worship we engage together in a ministry of compassion (*the Backpack Project*) providing food to children in need at W. L. Henry Elementary.

Sunday School • We're looking forward to starting classes again in September! If you are able to help teach the children, please contact Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).

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

Today: Childers Next Sunday: Costa

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: K. Boden

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



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