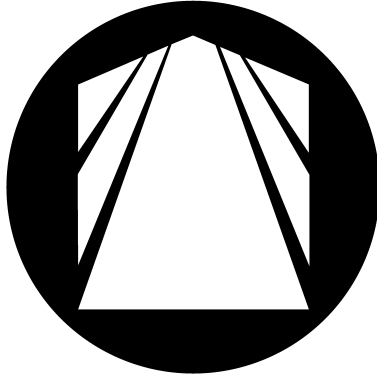


"[I said previously] that chastity was the most unpopular of Christian virtues. But I am not sure I was right. I believe the one I have to talk of today is even more unpopular: the Christian rule, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Because in Christian morals 'thy neighbor' includes 'thy enemy,' and so we come up against this terrible duty of forgiving our enemies."

C. S. Lewis, "Forgiveness," *Mere Christianity*

"We already forgive him for what he's done, and there's nothing but love from our family... Love is stronger than hate... We're going to heal through love."

The teenage children of Sharonda Singleton,
who was murdered the day before at a church in Charleston.



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 20, 2015



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 29:2

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Sing A Psalm Of Joy

Text: Psalm 81 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Sing a psalm of joy!

4 8 Shout in cel - e - bra - tion!

7 8 Let the tam - bou - rine and the trum - pet bring, prais -

10 8 es to our King, For His great sal -

13 8 va - tion. Sing a psalm!

16 8 Sing a psalm of joy!

19 8 Sing a psalm! Shout in cel - e - bra - tion !

Sound the festal horn, your thanksgiving voicing.
Praise the Lord your God, as he did command,
when from Egypt's land you came forth rejoicing.
(Chorus)

O my people hear; when I call you, listen.
Choose no foreign god, listen to my plea,
have no god but me; come and be forgiven.
(Chorus)

With the finest wheat, I your Lord, would feed you.
Honey from the rock, I would gladly give,
that you all might live; hear me O my people.
(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Isaiah 51:11

The ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

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 • Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to 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...

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.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots • Music: *Kentucky Harmony* (1820), arr. Chip Ueltschey

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words connected by hyphens to indicate they span across multiple notes. The score includes a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and bar lines. The lyrics are as follows:

1 "For - give our sins as we ___ for - give," you
How can your par - don reach ___ and ___ bless the
In blaz - ing light your cross ___ re - veals the
Lord, cleanse the depths with - in ___ our ___ souls, and

3 taught us, Lord, to pray; but
un - for - giv - ing heart that
truth we dim - ly knew: what
bid re - sent - ment cease; then,

5 you a - lone can grant ___ us ___ grace to
broods on ___ wrongs and will ___ not ___ let old
triv - ial ___ debts are owed ___ to ___ us, how
bound to ___ all in bonds ___ of ___ love, our

7 live the words we say.
bit - ter - ness de - part?
great our debt to you!
lives will spread your peace.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Text & Music: Stuart Townend • ©1995 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Deep The Father's Love For Us'. It consists of ten staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 15. The lyrics are: 'How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how Be-hold the man up-on the cross, my I will not boast in an-y thing, no vast be-yond all mea-sure, that sin up-on His should-ers; a-gifts, no pow'r, no wis-dom; but He should give His on-ly Son to shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call I will boast in Je-sus Christ, His make a wretch His trea-sure. How out a-mong the scof-fers. It death and res-ur-rect-ion. Why great the pain of sear-ing loss; the Fa-ther turns His was my sin that held Him there un-til it was ac-should I gain from His re-ward? I can-not give an face a-way as wounds which mar the com-plished. His dy-ing breath has an-swer, but this I know with cho-sen one bring man-y sons to glo-ry. brought me life, I know that it is fin-ished. all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran-som.'

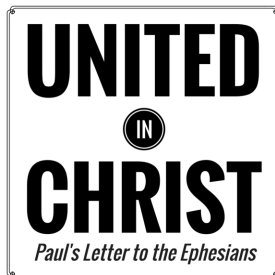
NEW TESTAMENT READING • Ephesians 4:25-32

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth¹ with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin²; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The Word of the Lord.

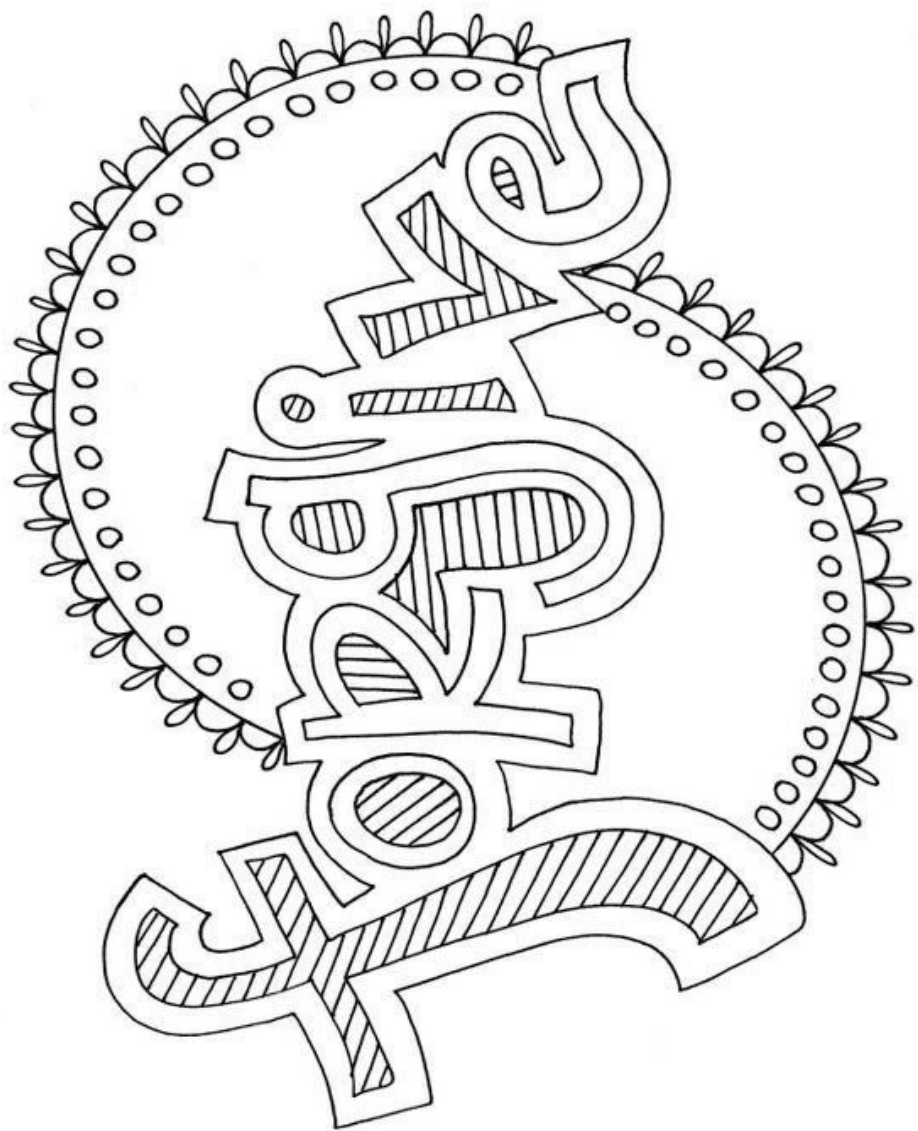
Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Forgiveness” (Rev. Eric Costa)



¹ See Zechariah 8:16.

² See Psalm 4:4.





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.³ 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 catholic⁴ 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].)

³ 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.

⁴ Or, "universal."

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: Lowell Mason • Public Domain

Voice

When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
on which the Prince of glo - - - ry died,
my rich - est gain I count but loss,
and pour con - tempt on all my pride.

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the Prince of glo - - - ry died, my rich - est gain I count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.'

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander • Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch • Public Domain



Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y the King of cre -
Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
Praise to the Lord, Who doth pros - per thy work and de -
Praise to the Lord, Who with mar - ve - lous wis - dom hath
Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul praise Him for
reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der His
fend thee; sure - ly His good - ness and
made thee; Decked thee with health and with
dore Him! All that hath life and breath,



He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
lov - ing hand guid - ed and stayed thee.
come now with prais - es be - fore Him.



All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw
Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y will
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee re -
Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a -



near, _____ join me in glad a - dor -
been _____ grant - ed in what He or -
do, _____ if with His love He be -
lief, _____ Spread - ing His wings to o'er
gain, _____ Glad - ly for - ev - er a -



a - - - tion.
dain - - - eth?
friend thee.
shade thee!
dore Him.

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

~

Sunday School • We're looking forward to starting classes again on Sun., Oct. 4! If you are able to help teach the children, please contact Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).

Presbytery • Pray for the pastors and elders of PCA churches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska as we meet this week. Pray that our worship, work, and fellowship would be Christ-centered, and that the Gospel would spread in the Pacific Northwest.

Musicians • Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 at the Costa home for fellowship and practice. Families are welcome. Also, if you're interested in Advent choir, contact Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

Home Group • Next Sun (Sept. 27) at the Costa home. This will be our final discussion of Bolsinger's book, *It Takes A Church To Raise A Christian* (chs 10-12 + conclusion). RSVP: jerilee.costa@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Oct. 16-18 at Rockaway Beach. \$70. Contact Cheryl Boden to register and to help with meals (wu.gardens@gmail.com).

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: Tayun

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
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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.