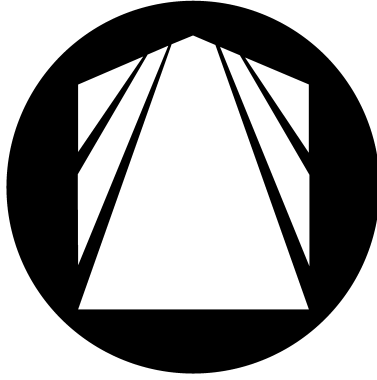


"Time needs to be guarded because *the days are evil*. We, however, are more likely to think that they are harmless. But there is nothing harmless about an age that seems to regard leisure as an antidote for work, entertainment as an antidote to boredom. Rather than purchasing treasure we weaken our spiritual immune system as we breathe in the pollutants that ultimately destroy time's value. What do you most instinctively think of doing when you have nothing to do?"

Sinclair Ferguson

"The children of this world are accustomed to indulge in deep drinking as an excitement to mirth. Such carnal excitement is contrasted with that holy joy of which the Spirit of God is the Author. And which produces entirely opposite effects. To what does drunkenness lead? To unbounded licentiousness—to unbridled, indecent merriment. And to what does spiritual joy lead, when it is most strongly excited? To *psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*."

John Calvin



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2015



THE WORD

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!

O God Our Help In Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: William Croft • Public Domain

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

Thy word commands our flesh to dust:
"Return, ye sons of men!"
All nations rose from earth at first
and turn to earth again.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

O God our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 45:22, 24a

“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Isaiah 45:17

Israel is saved by the LORD
with everlasting salvation;
you shall not be put to shame or confounded
to all eternity.

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 • Ecclesiastes 12

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...

Our Father, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.

Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.

Jesus, you are full of compassion.

Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.

And teach us to pray as you taught your disciples, saying:

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.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part". The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17.

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

To You, O Lord, I Lift My Eyes

Text: Psalm 123 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

To You, O Lord, I lift my eyes,
O Lord our God, Your mer-cy show,
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.
For hu - man pride and scorn we know.
As ser - vants
Re - proach and
watch their mas - ter's hand, Or
shame your saints en - dure, From
maid - ens by their mis - tress stand,
sin - ners who ap - pear se - cure.
So to the Lord our eyes we raise,
To You O Lord, I lift my eyes,
Un - til His mer - cy He dis - plays.
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.

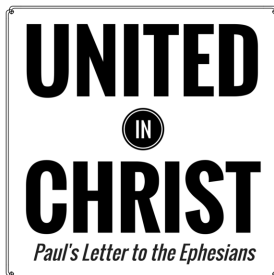
NEW TESTAMENT READING • Ephesians 5:15-21

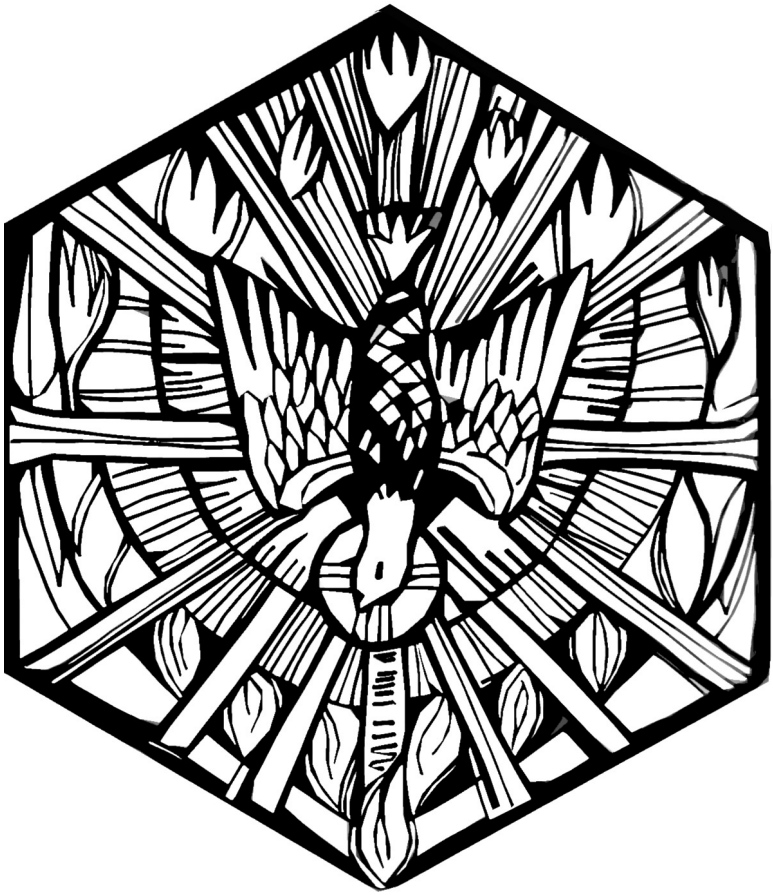
¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “True Wisdom” (Rev. Eric Costa)







THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 Or, “universal.”

At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Text: Robert Campbell • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
flow - ing from His pierc - ed side;
Praise we Him whose love di - vine
gives His sa - cred blood for wine,
gives His bod - y for the feast,
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheaths his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed: paschal victim, paschal bread.
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
Death is conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.
Hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit ever be.

Hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit ever be.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Text: George Matheson • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 O Love that will not let me go,
7 O Light that fol - low'st all my way,
13 I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
I yield my flick - 'ring torch to thee;
18 I give thee back the life I
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed
24 - owe, That in thine o - cean depths
- ray, That in thy sun - shine's blaze
30 - its flow may rich - er ful - ler be. O Love that will
- its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
37 - not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
43 I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine oc - ean
8 depths its flow may rich - er ful - ler be!

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

(Chorus)

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~

Sunday School • After Worship, and some time for fellowship and coffee, join us for Sunday School... Kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes. Adults will meet in the fellowship hall for sermon discussion (young children are welcome to accompany their parents).

Home Group • Next Sunday (Oct. 25) after Worship and Sunday School, at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro). We will begin a new series of conversations about prayer, starting with Karl Barth's little book, *Prayer*. Everyone is invited! RSVP (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Moms' Group • Enjoy relaxing with other moms with young children, and invite your friends!

- 10am Wed., Oct. 28 at the home of Sara Sery. The Serys have a bit of a volunteer pumpkin patch, so toss costumes on your kids (or leave them in their pajamas!) and they can pick one to take home. Lunch provided. RSVP (the.serys@gmail.com).

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Oct. 31 at the Costa home. Each time we meet we'll look briefly at a phrase from the Apostles' Creed. Eric will provide a brief teaching to kickstart our table conversations. This should be a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors! RSVP (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com), and let Eric know if you can help by bringing part of the breakfast.

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).

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

Today: The Incredible Tim Sery

Next Sunday: Aznoe

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

Today: The Inestimable Tim 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.



Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro
ascensionpc.org • [facebook.com/ascensionpc](https://www.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.