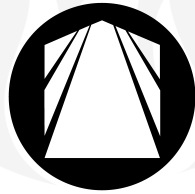


*Grace, she takes the blame / She covers the shame / Removes the stain / It could be her name  
Grace, it's the name for a girl / It's also a thought that changed the world  
And when she walks on the street / You can hear the strings / Grace finds goodness in everything...  
When she goes to work / You can hear her strings / Grace finds beauty in everything...  
Grace makes beauty out of ugly things*

Bono

"When the Lord takes some dark soul to himself,  
he makes it beautiful by communion with himself."

Gregory of Nyssa (335-395 A.D.)



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 6, 2015  
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-35**

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,  
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel,  
and whose power is in the skies.

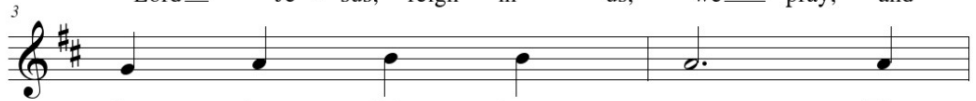
Awesome is God from his sanctuary;  
the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God!

# The People That In Darkness Sat

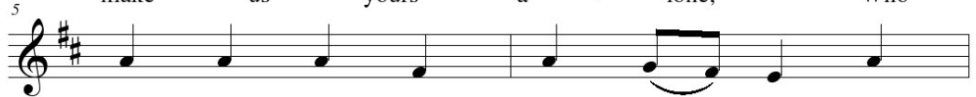
Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



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



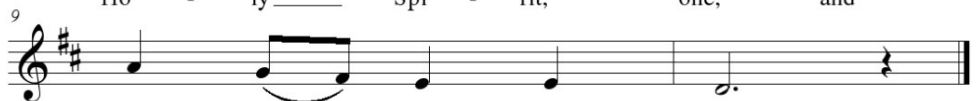
glo - rious light have seen; The  
gath - 'ring na - tions come; They  
us the Son is giv'n, And  
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The  
o - ver all ex - tend; On  
make us yours a - lone, Who



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



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



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**

The Lord be with you. <sup>Ruth 2:4</sup>

*The Lord bless you.*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Micah 7:18**

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper, born in my birth, alive in my life, strong in my character, dominating my faculties, following me as a shadow, intermingling with my every thought, my chain that holds me captive. Yet your compassions yearn over me, your heart hastens to my rescue, your love endured my curse, your mercy bore my justice. Let me walk in humility, bathed in your blood, tender of conscience, living in triumph as an heir of salvation through your blessed name. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Micah 7:19**

He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.

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.*

## **GOSPEL READING • John 4:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."  
<sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*  
Let us pray...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

*We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

*We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.*

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

*We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God's sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.*

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, 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.*

## Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with  
3  
8 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:  
7  
8 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -  
10  
8 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.  
13  
8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C', which then changes to '8' for the rest of the piece. The lyrics are: 'Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!'. There are measure numbers 3, 7, 10, and 13 indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

# Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger  
filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:  
All glo - ry be to Je - sus! Up-on a cross my  
Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still  
o-pen wide: All glo - ry be to Je - sus! And this is  
love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to  
save! All glo - ry be to Je - sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,  
his work of love and mercy done,  
the Father's high ascended Son:  
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,  
because of our Lord's sacrifice,  
new life through him, the crucified:  
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!  
He came to earth our souls to save!  
And this is love! And this is grace!  
That Christ, our God, did come to save!  
All glory be to Jesus.  
All glory be to Jesus.



the **Song** of **Songs**

love's fla - shes are fla - shes of fire, the ve - ry flame of the LORD

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • The Song of Songs 1:5-11**

SHE

- 5 I am very dark, but lovely,  
O daughters of Jerusalem,  
like the tents of Kedar,  
like the curtains of Solomon.
- 6 Do not gaze at me because I am dark,  
because the sun has looked upon me.  
My mother's sons were angry with me;  
they made me keeper of the vineyards,  
but my own vineyard I have not kept!
- 7 Tell me, you whom my soul loves,  
where you pasture your flock,  
where you make it lie down at noon;  
for why should I be like one who veils herself  
beside the flocks of your companions?

HE

- 8 If you do not know,  
O most beautiful among women,  
follow in the tracks of the flock,  
and pasture your young goats  
beside the shepherds' tents.
- 9 I compare you, my love,  
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.
- 10 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,  
your neck with strings of jewels.

OTHERS

- 11 We will make for you ornaments of gold,  
studded with silver.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • "Beautification" (Rev. Eric Costa)**



THE UPPER ROOM



### **VOWS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

### **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 in the back for prayer [James 5:13-16].)



# The Sands Of Time Are Sinking

Text: Anne R. Cousin • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8  
The sands of time are sink-ing, -the dawn of\_ heav-en\_  
4  
The King there in His beau-ty with - out\_ a\_ veil is\_  
8  
breaks, the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the  
7  
seen; it were a well spent jour - ney though  
8  
fair\_ sweet morn a - wakes; so dark hath been the  
10  
se-ven deaths lay\_\_ be - tween: the Lamb with His fair  
8  
mid - night, but day-spring is at hand, and glo - ry,  
14  
ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,  
8  
18  
glo - ry dwell-eth in Em-man-uel's land! And glo - ry,  
8  
glo - ry, dwell-eth in Em-man - uel's\_ land!

O Christ, he is the fountain, the deep sweet well of love!  
The streams of earth I've tasted, more deep I'll drink above;  
there to an ocean fullness his mercy doth expand,

*(Chorus)*

The bride eyes not her garment, but eyes her bridegroom's face;  
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace;  
not on the crown he gifteth, but on his pierced hands:

*(Chorus)*

# Silent Night

Text: Franz Gruber • Music: Joseph Mohr • Public Domain

Tenor

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.' The score includes bar numbers 3, 6, 8, and 11. The melody is simple and characteristic of the original carol.

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!

All is calm, all is bright, round yon vir - gin

moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so

ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

# Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4<sup>th</sup> Century), Martin Luther (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,  
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed  
Mar - y then was found with child,  
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,

3  
8 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der  
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the  
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored  
passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his

6  
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.  
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.  
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.  
Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

9  
8 Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_

15  
8 In the high - - - est!

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is in common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes repeat signs and a double bar line at the end of the first system. The second system starts with a measure rest for three measures. The third system starts with a measure rest for three measures. The fourth system starts with a measure rest for three measures. The fifth system starts with a measure rest for three measures.

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,  
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.

Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.

Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

*(Chorus)*

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!

With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

*(Chorus x2)*

## BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

**Congregational Meeting** • Today (Dec. 6) after Worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect Dave Bull and Tim Sery to the office of Deacon. Members may vote, but everyone is invited to join us.

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month we 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 School (this is an easy ministry for the children of the church to participate in).

**Rejoicing In Christ Home Group** • Sun., Dec. 20 at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany, Tigard). Join us as we share lunch and conversation about Michael Reeves' book.

**Christmas Eve Service** • 7pm Thu., Dec. 24.

### Financial Report YTD through Oct. 31

Giving: \$107,000

Expenses: \$117,000

Account Balance: \$12,000

**Musicians** • Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 at the Costa home for fellowship, choir practice, and preparation for the coming Sunday. Families are welcome. Contact Kady Boden (kady@ascensionpc.org).

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

Today: Childers

Next Sunday: Aznoe

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

Today: Friesen

Next Sunday: Edwards

**Regular Gatherings** • For information about our meetings like home groups and bible studies for men and women, visit [ascensionpc.org/calendar](http://ascensionpc.org/calendar).



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

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(Please fill out this contact card, tear it off, and drop it in the offering.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email / Phone