

"The Bible ends as the Song does. The most ancient recorded item of eucharistic liturgy is the church's entreaty for her risen Lord to *come*—and that quickly—to his bride gathered round the loaf and cup... Let every lover say often to the beloved, 'Make haste to me!' Let them even append some proximation of the Amen, 'His advent is sure.' Thus ends the song of the lovers, the song of the Lord and his bride, and the song of all human love, embedded as it is in the Song of God."

Robert Jenson



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 27, 2015  
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY



THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:1-3**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

# On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

Text & Music: *Pie Cantiones*, 1582 • Public Domain

Tenor

8 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
His the doom our the mirth; when he came

4 chil - dren sing earth, to the Lord, Christ our King,  
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth;

7 born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would

10 gave us. I - de - o, o, o,  
hide him.

13 I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o,

16 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

*(Chorus)*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, Heaven's king, born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*(Chorus)*

## **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 • John 8:34**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 8:36**

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Exodus 23:19**

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

## **OFFERTORY • Choir: “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heav’nly Light”**

## **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 11:1-27**

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...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to reign in justice as our King:

*Cause our President and Congress to love justice and mercy. Help our Mayor and City Council to increase the peace of the city.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

*Restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. Destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. Protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to bring us peace with God:

*Bring peace between nations in Your world; help Ascension to live in your peace together; come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

*Show mercy to our friends who do not yet know you; deepen our faith in the Gospel of grace.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy death and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

*Comfort those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to sympathize with our weaknesses:

*Please hear us as we bring you our specific requests.* (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you taught us:

*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

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 key signature of one flat. The second staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The third staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fourth staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The fifth staff has a measure rest at the beginning. 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!"

3  
8  
7  
8  
10  
8  
13  
8

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!

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!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

# Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: 'An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.' The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing  
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply  
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis  
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

*(Chorus)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

*(Chorus)*



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 8:4-7, 14**

4 (She) I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
that you not stir up or awaken love  
until it pleases.

5 Who is that coming up from the wilderness,  
leaning on her beloved?

Under the apple tree I awakened you.  
There your mother was in labor with you;  
there she who bore you was in labor.

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death,  
jealousy is fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
the very flame of the LORD.

7 Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If a man offered for love  
all the wealth of his house,  
he would be utterly despised.

14 Make haste, my beloved,  
and be like a gazelle  
or a young stag  
on the mountains of spices.

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

**SERMON • “Come, Lord Jesus!” (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.<sup>1</sup> 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 catholic<sup>2</sup> 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 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].)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Or, “universal.”



# Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain



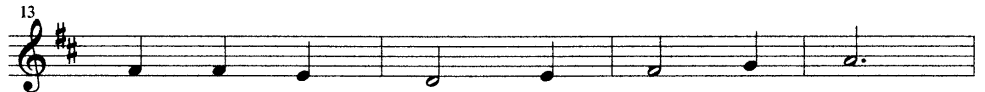
Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor  
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing  
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



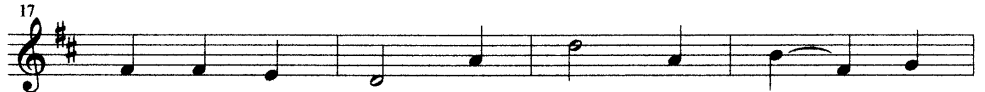
all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;  
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;  
Sav - ior and King we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,  
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,  
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.  
heav'n - ward by thine et - ter - nal plan.  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor  
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing  
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.  
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.  
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

# The First Noel

Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The first Noel the an - gel did  
say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they  
lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier  
sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so  
deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the carol 'The First Noel'. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines. The lyrics are: 'The first Noel the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' The final measure ends with a double bar line.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*(Chorus)*

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a King was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*(Chorus)*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*(Chorus)*

# Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frederick Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-". The second staff continues: "ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him". The third staff continues: "room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And". The fourth staff continues: "heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and". The fifth staff continues: "na - ture sing." and ends with a double bar line.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and  
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

**BENEDICTION • Revelation 22:12-13, 20-21**

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end... Surely I am coming soon.”

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

~

**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).

**Prayer Home Group** • The meeting that would normally take place today is canceled.

**Musicians** • Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 at the Costa home for fellowship 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: Aznoe      Next Sunday: Jaques

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

Today: Costa      Next Sunday: Hamilton

**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://www.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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.