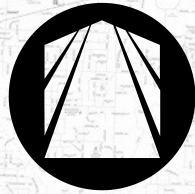


"What makes Christianity absolutely distinct is the identity of our God. *Which* God we worship: *that* is the article of faith that stands before all others. The bedrock of our faith is nothing less than God himself, and every aspect of the gospel—creation, revelation, salvation—is only Christian insofar as it is the creation, revelation and salvation of *this* God, the triune God."

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship • January 3, 2016



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:6-8a

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker!

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

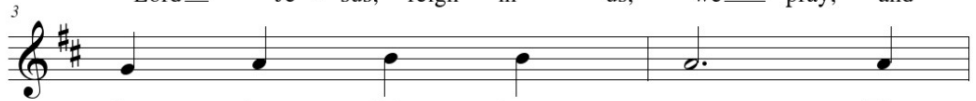
Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.

The People That In Darkness Sat

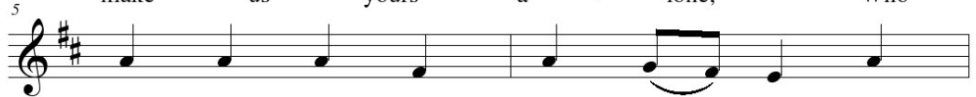
Text: Paraphrase of Isaiah 9:2-7 • Music: John Morison • Public Domain



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



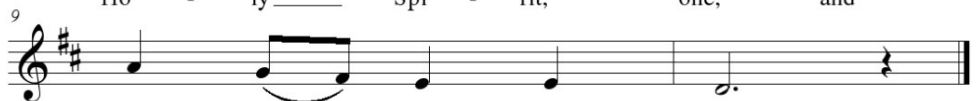
glo - rious light have seen; The
gath - 'ring na - tions come; They
us the Son is giv'n, And
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, The
o - ver all ex - tend; On
make us yours a - lone, Who



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. ^{Ruth 2:4}

The Lord bless you.

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:39-41

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty Father, God of gods and Lord of lords, Father to the fatherless, Husband to the widow, Defender of the helpless, Judge of all the earth, have mercy on us. We have not sought freedom for the oppressed even though you freed us. We have not bound up the broken even though you healed us. We have not forgiven others even though you forgave us. We withhold kindness from the needy even though you freely gave us your own Son. We are without excuse, but not without hope. By your power and grace, account our sins to Jesus' bloody death and amend our ways by the power of his glorious resurrection.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 23:42-43

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

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 • Deuteronomy 4:32-40

³² "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. ³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? ³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. ³⁶ Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. ³⁷ And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, ³⁸ driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, ³⁹ know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

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...

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that, as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

We pray for peace in every corner of the world: where there is war, where there is persecution, where there is starvation, where there is sickness, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.

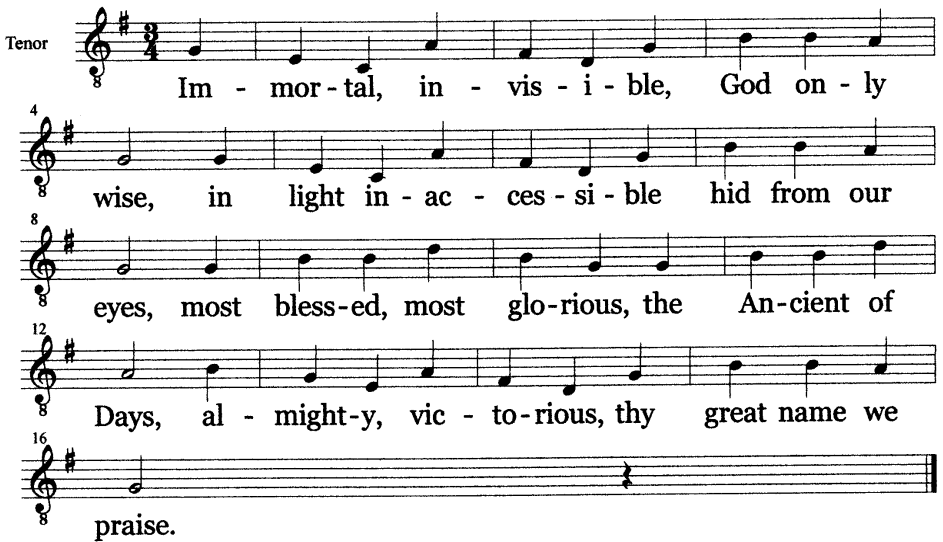
Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In him was life and the life was our light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Cause that light to shine ever brighter in us and through us. Amen.

Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith • Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Peace, Perfect Peace

Text: Edward H. Bickersteth (1875) • Music: Matthew H. Curl (2008)

Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Peace, per-fect peace, in this dark world of
4 Peace, per-fect peace, with sor-rows surg-ing
8 sin, the blood of Je-sus whis-pers peace with-
8 round, on Je-sus' bo-som naught but calm is
12 in. Peace, perfect peace, by throng-ing du-ties
12 found. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far a-
8 pressed, to do the will of Je-sus, this is rest.
17 way, in Je-sus' keep-ing we are safe and they.
8 It is e-nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when
21 Je-sus calls us to heaven's per-fect peace. It is e-
26 nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when Je-sus calls us
30 home to a per-fect peace.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown,
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.
Peace, perfect peace, death shadows us and ours,
Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.
*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us to heaven's perfect peace.
It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us home to a perfect peace.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

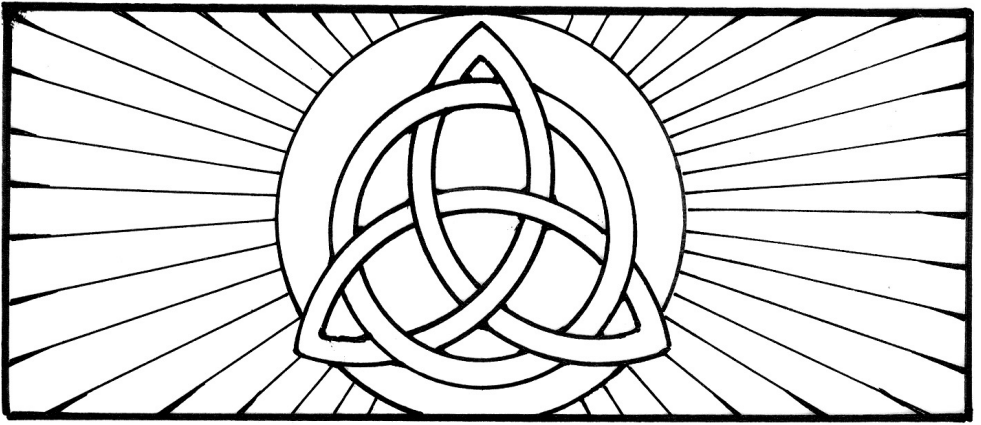
³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Ascension’s Basic Confession” (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 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].)

¹ Or, “universal.”

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)

Love Me To The End

Text: Samuel Medley • Music: Jeff Koonce • ©2006 Red Mountain Music

Tenor



8 A beg - ar poor, at mer - cy's door, lies
A wick - ed heart is no small part, of
3 My stub - born will op - pos - es still, Thy
8 such a wretch as I; Thou know'st my need is
my dist - ress and shame; Let sover - eign grace its
6 wise and ho - ly hand; Thy spi - rit send to
8 great in - deed, Lord hear me when I cry.
crimes ef - face, through Jes - sus' bles - sed name.
9 make it bend, to Thy su - preme com - mand.
8 With guilt be - set and deep in debt, for
My dark - ened mind I dail - y find, is
11 Af - fect - ions wild by sin def - iled, oft
8 pard - on Lord, I pray; O let Thy love suf -
prone to go as - tray; Lord on it shine with
14 hur - ry me a - way; Lord, bring them home nor
8 fi - cient prove, to take my sins a - way.
light di - vine, and guide it in Thy way.
let them roam, from Christ the Li - ving Way.

Before thy face I've told my case; Lord help and mercy send;
pity my soul and make me whole, and love me to the end.

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

~

Sunday School • This is our last Sunday off of Sunday School and Sermon Discussion (for the holidays).

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (today!) 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.

Monthly Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Jan. 9, at the Costa home. Each time we meet we'll look briefly at a phrase from the Apostles' Creed. Eric will provide a teaching to kickstart our table conversations. This time: "Almighty." 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.

Rejoicing In Christ Home Group • Sun., Jan. 10 at the home of Joe and Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany, Tigard). All are welcome! Join us as we share lunch and conversation about Michael Reeves' book. RSVP to Joe (joepope@comcast.net).

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: Jaques Next Sunday: Friesen

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

Today: Costa Next Sunday: Sery

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.