



# ASCENSION

---

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 27, 2016



#### THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 2:5**

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.

~

*We light this candle in hope.*

## Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David* (Geneva, 1551) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

3  
8 Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.

5  
8 To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!

7  
8 Tell them that their war is o - ver, God will reign in peace for - ev - er!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:34**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Forgive us, Father, for we have sinned. We rely too much on our own achievements and estimations to gauge our relationship with you. We spend too much time trying to get into a place where you have already brought us. We try to earn your favor, not recognizing that, in doing so, we belittle what you have already done. We are slow to believe in your great mercy, and quick to think that, surely, there is more to be done by us. Forgive us for our attempts to rewrite your offer of grace. We stand before you as sinners without excuse, without merit. Forgive us. Thank you that, even still, due to the sacrifice of your Son, you look upon us with pride and great joy. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 24:46-47**

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations."

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Romans 12:1**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

## **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 • Matthew 17:1-9**

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 in the heavens, you do all that you please. You are sovereign over everything that you have made. Nothing can thwart your holy will. You have declared the end from the beginning, and you will accomplish all your purpose.

*We trust that you love us, and that you order our lives for our good and your glory. Help us where our faith is weak. Grant us peace that passes understanding in the midst of the trials of this life. We rejoice and rest in your perfect, fatherly care.*

Please, Father, make the earth more like heaven.

*Be present with us through your Holy Spirit. Comfort and heal those who are sick in mind, heart, and body. Revive dead souls to life, and lift up those who are poor in spirit. Provide for those who are seeking work. Bring justice, peace, and prosperity to our community, and to the world. Send your Son again soon to make heaven and earth one.*

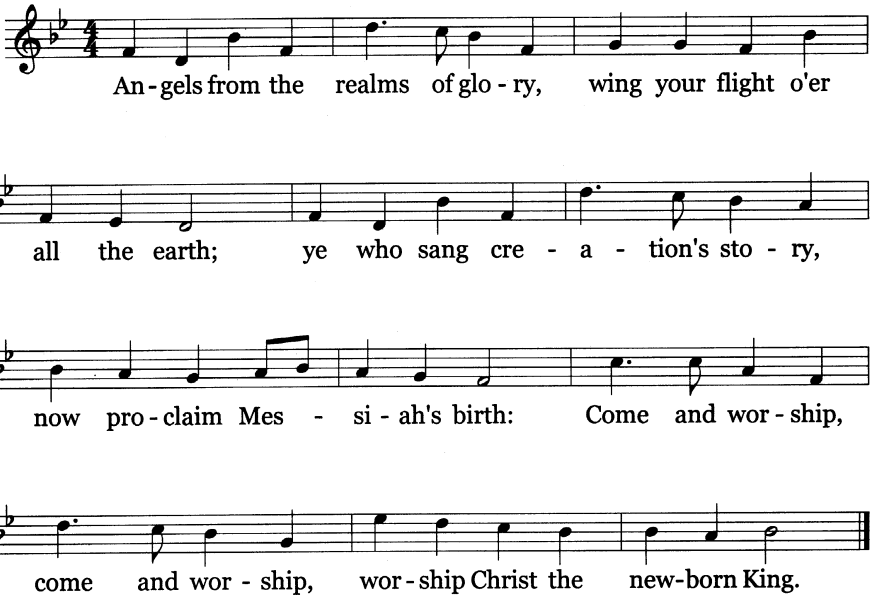
Until that Day, Father, may your will be done in us and through us.

*Not our will but yours be done. May the joy of your salvation be our strength as we seek to live for you. We want to be holy as you are holy; teach us the law of love, and help us to obey you. Change our will to align with your own; help us to love what you love, and to hate what you hate. Make our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to you, our Father who is in heaven. In Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

## Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Henry Smart • Public Domain

Alto



The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: 'An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er'. The second staff begins with a measure rest of 4 measures, then the melody continues: D4 (half), C4 (half). The lyrics are: 'all the earth; ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry,'. The third staff begins with a measure rest of 7 measures, then the melody continues: B3 (half), A3 (half). The lyrics are: 'now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth: Come and wor-ship,'. The fourth staff begins with a measure rest of 10 measures, then the melody continues: G3 (half), F#3 (half). The lyrics are: 'come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,

now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,

come and wor - ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.

*(Chorus)*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen his natal star.

*(Chorus)*

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.

*(Chorus)*

Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains,  
Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you; break your chains.

*(Chorus)*

# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> Century • Music: French Melody • Public Domain

Alto



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,  
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y,  
Rank on rank the host of heav - en  
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph;

4



and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
as of old on earth He stood,  
spreads its van - guard on the way,  
cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,

7



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,  
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,  
as the Light of light de - scend - eth  
veil their fac - es to the pre - ence,

10



for with bless - ing in his hand,  
in the bod - y and the blood,  
from the realms of end - less day,  
as with cease - less voice they cry,

13



Christ our God to earth de - scend - - -  
He will give to all the faith - - -  
that the pow'rs of hell may van - - -  
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - -

16



eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
ish as the dark-ness clears a - way.  
ia. al - le - lu - ia. Lord Most High!"

**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Daniel 7:1-18**

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “Hope” (Rev. Eric Costa)**





# THE UPPER ROOM



## **CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him. 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].)

## The Sands Of Time Are Sinking

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

Tenor

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

## 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!

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)*

# Joy To The World

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

Alto

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.

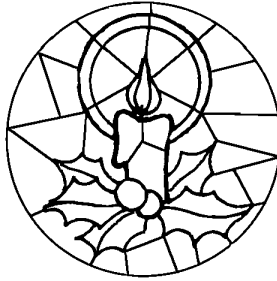
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

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 • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~



*Remember:* every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church!

**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).

**Monthly Men's Breakfast** • 7:30am Sat., Dec. 3 at the Costa home. The phrase from the Apostles' Creed that we'll discuss this time will be, "He Descended into Hell." RSVP (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Mercy Sunday** • Sun., Dec. 4... *The Backpack Project* and *Almsgiving* (December's alms will go toward our denomination's ministerial relief fund, assisting needy retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children).

**Finance Report (through Oct.)** • Giving: \$119k    Expenses: \$112k    Account Balance: \$60k

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

### Nursery Volunteers

Today: Childers    Next Sunday: Sery

### Refreshments Volunteers

(Contact: Nicole Hamilton, [neh.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:neh.hamilton@gmail.com))

Today: Hamilton    Next Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_



**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)**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

-----  
(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.