

"God has not abandoned us any more than he abandoned Job.  
He never abandons anyone on whom he has set his love;  
nor does Christ, the good shepherd, ever lose track of his sheep."

J.I. Packer

"If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear.  
His eye is upon us, his arm over us, his ear open to our prayer—  
his grace sufficient, his promise unchangeable."

John Newton

Male Passenger: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."

Jack: "You want to walk a little faster through that valley there?"

from the movie *Titanic*



# ASCENSION

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day  
January 1, 2017



### **CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 96:2-4**

Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

## May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Text: Common Book of Prayer • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor

8

When morn-ing gilds the skies, my  
When sleep her peace de - nies, my  
heart a - wake-ing cries; A - like at work and prayer,  
si - lent spi - rit sighs; When ev - il thoughts mo - lest,  
— on Christ I cast my cares; May  
— with this I shield my breast; May  
Je-sus Christ be praised! May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
Je-sus Christ be praised! May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
— To God, the Word, on high, the  
— In Heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss, the  
host of an - gels cry. May Je-sus Christ be praised!  
love-liest strain is this!  
— May Je - sus Christ be praised! My  
God, the Sav-ior reigns! May Je-sus Christ be praised!

3

6

9

12

15

18

21

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find;  
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this, while life is mine, my love, my song divine:  
*May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!*  
*My God, the Savior, reigns! May Jesus Christ be praised!*

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Corinthians 6:11**

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Ephesians 4:28; 5:2**

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need... Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## **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 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

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 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.*

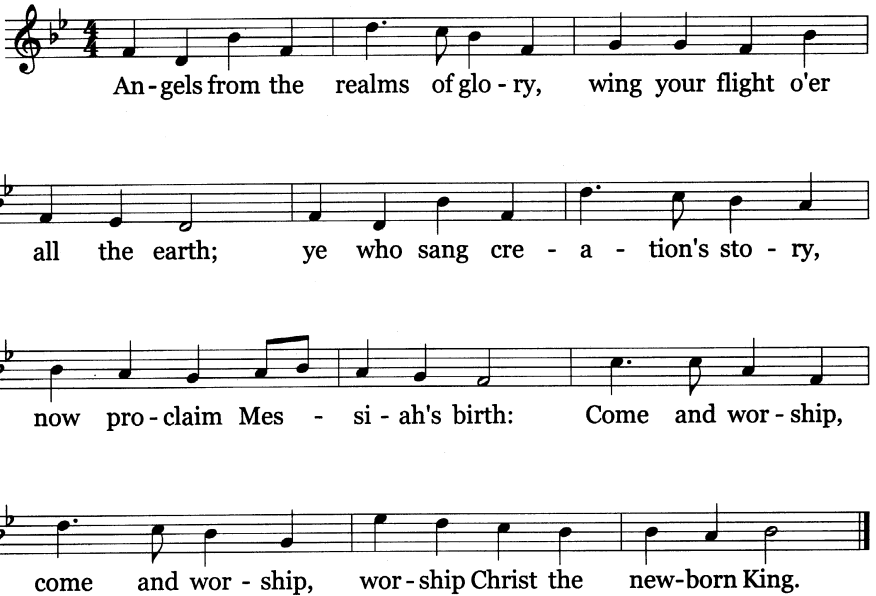
Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.  
*Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.*

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.*

## 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 continues with: C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (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 continues with: C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (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 continues with: C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The lyrics are: 'come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.'.

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)*

# O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Text: Phillip Brooks • Music: Lewis H. Redner • Public Domain

Tenor

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.'

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee  
lie; a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the  
si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets  
shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the  
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to -  
night.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in the world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

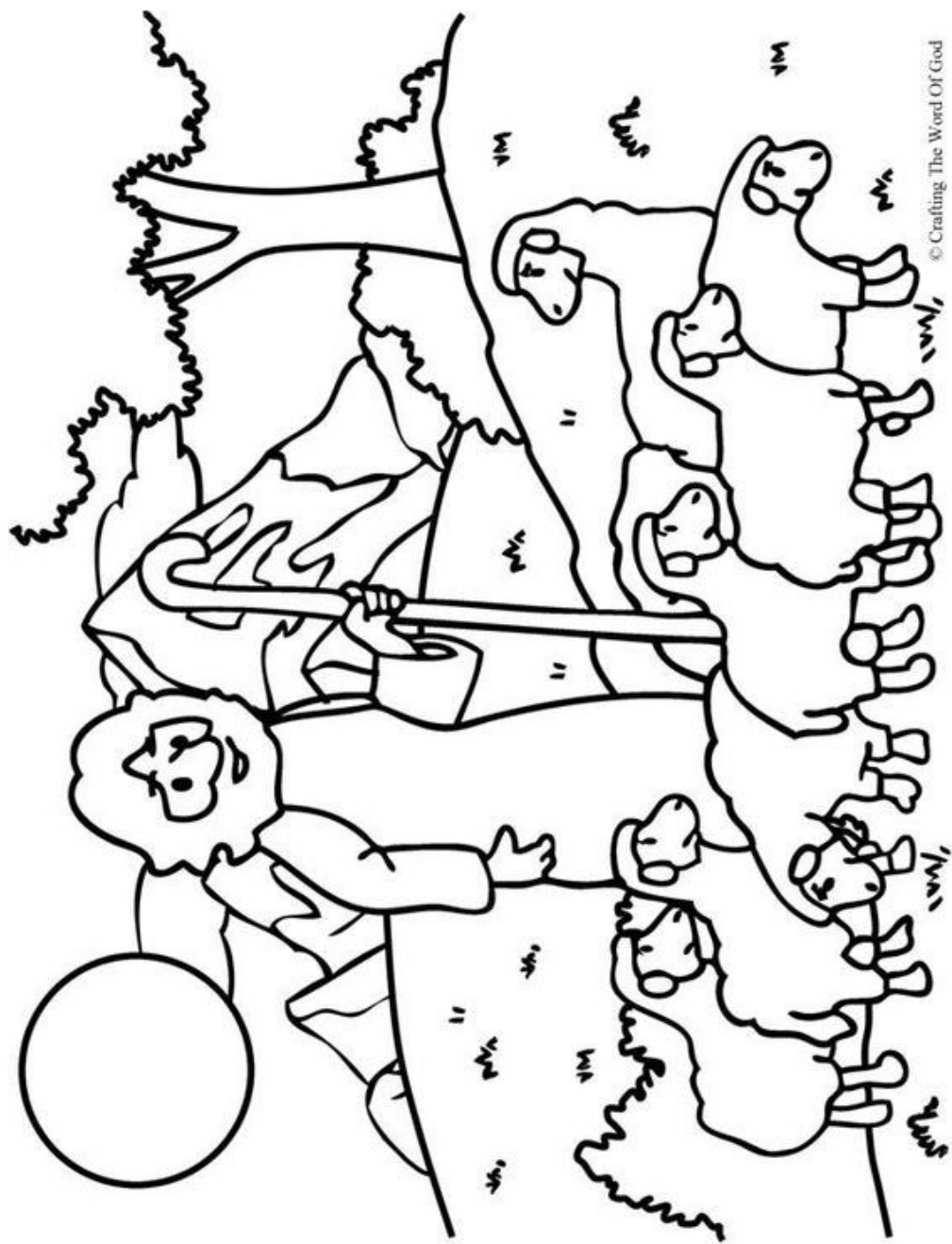
**OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 23:1-4**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “The Presence of the Shepherd” (Brian Janssen)**







# 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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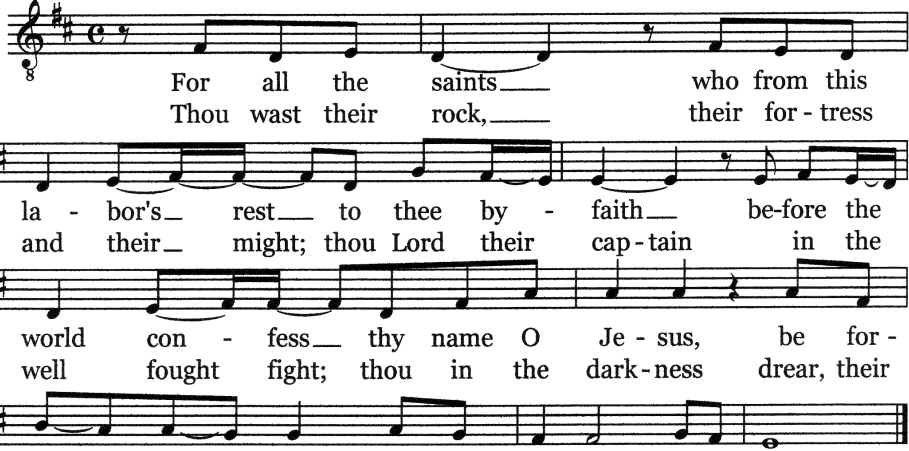
<sup>1</sup> When the Creed states that Jesus “descended into hell,” we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

<sup>2</sup> Or, “universal.”

# For All The Saints

Text: William H. How • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1998 Christopher Miner

Tenor



8 For all the saints who from this  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress  
4 la - bor's rest to thee by - faith be - fore the  
8 and their might; thou Lord their cap - tain in the  
6 world con - fess thy name O Je - sus, be for -  
well fought fight; thou in the dark - ness drear, their  
e - ver blessed, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu.  
one true light, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu.

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Alelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest,  
Alleluia, Alelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Aleluia, Alelu...  
Aleluia, Aleluia.

## 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

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,  
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  
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.  
Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_  
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)*

## BENEDICTION • Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

~

*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).

**Mercy Sunday** • Today: *Almsgiving and the Backpack Project*.

**Monthly Men's Breakfast** • 7:30am Sat., Jan. 7 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). The phrase from the Apostles' Creed for this week: "The Third Day He Rose Again From The Dead." RSVP (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Home Group** • Sun., Jan. 8 at the Pope home (15953 SW Tuscany Street, Tigard). All are welcome! RSVP (joepope@comcast.net).

**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: Aznoe      Next Sunday: Costa

### Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Hamilton      Next Sunday: Jaques



**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.)

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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.