

"There was already a deep black wordless conviction in him  
that the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin."

Flannery O'Connor

"Religion is unbelief."

Lesslie Newbigin



# ASCENSION

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Public Worship on the Lord's Day  
May 14, 2017



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 149:1-4**

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

# Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

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

Alto

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

5  
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.

9  
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,

13  
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.

17  
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

21  
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.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Genesis 6:5**

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Father, we are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Forgive us for how we have corrupted your good creation. Gracious God, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no one can stand. Your mercy is our only hope and we ask for your forgiveness. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. We pray these things in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Genesis 15:6**

Abraham believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:10-11**

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving 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.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations,

*Hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need,

*Give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.

*We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

And now, as our Savior taught us, let us humbly pray:

*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.*

## Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into five systems, with measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17 indicated at the beginning of each system. The lyrics are: 'Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part'.

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a  
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is  
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His  
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that  
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -  
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,  
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,  
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.  
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,  
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God.

# God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800) • Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy

©2007 Red Mountain Music



1. God of my life to Thee I \_\_\_\_\_ call;  
2. Friend of the friend - less and the \_\_\_\_\_ faint,  
3. That were a grief I could not \_\_\_\_\_ bear,



Af - flict - ed at Thy \_\_\_\_\_ feet I \_\_\_\_\_ fall;  
Where should I lodge my \_\_\_\_\_ deep com - - paint?  
Didst Thou not hear and \_\_\_\_\_ an - swer \_\_\_\_\_ prayer;



When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail,  
Where but with Thee whose o - - pen \_\_\_\_\_ door,  
But a prayer - hear - ing, an - swer - ing \_\_\_\_\_ God,



Leave not my tremb - ling heart to \_\_\_\_\_ fail.  
In - vites the help - less and the \_\_\_\_\_ poor?  
Sup - ports me un - der \_\_\_\_\_ ev - 'ry \_\_\_\_\_ load.



Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, \_\_\_\_\_ Yet God, my God, for -



gets me not; \_\_\_\_\_ And he is safe, and must suc -



ceed, For whom, the Lord is sure to \_\_\_\_\_ plead. \_\_\_\_\_

## **GOSPEL READING • John 7:40-52**

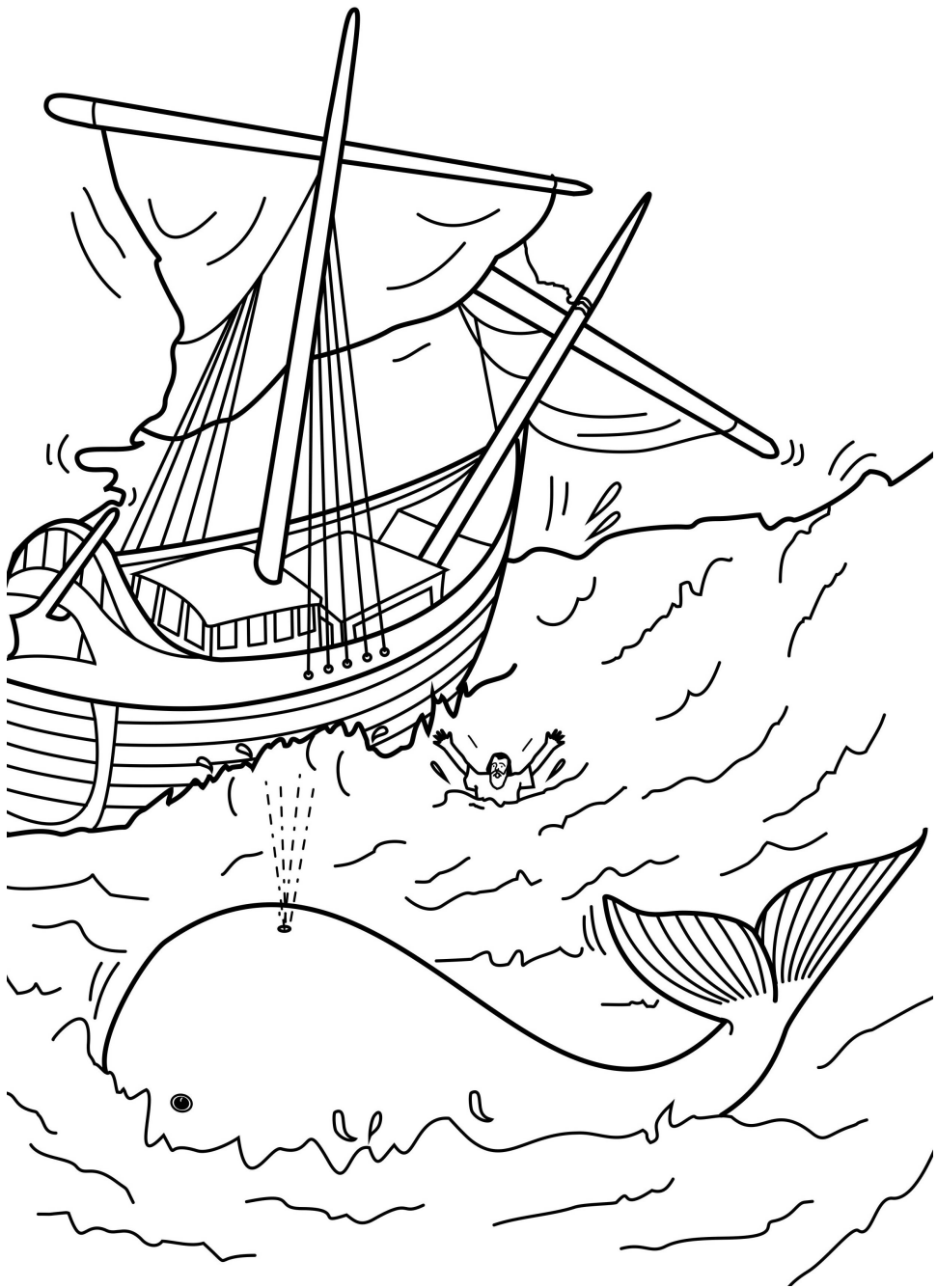
When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."<sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?"<sup>42</sup> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"<sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people over him.<sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?"<sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"<sup>47</sup> The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived?"<sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?<sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them,<sup>51</sup> "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?"<sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

## **SERMON • "Religion Is Unbelief" (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 for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

## Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music

Tenor

8 A - bide with me; — fast fall the e - ven -  
3 Thou on my head, in — ear - ly youth didst  
6 tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -  
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -  
9 bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts  
while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left  
flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.  
Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor voice part. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Tenor' and has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a few accidentals. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a '8' below the first measure. The second staff has a '3' below the first measure. The third staff has a '6' below the first measure. The fourth staff has a '9' below the first measure. The fifth staff has a '8' below the first measure. The lyrics are: 'A - bide with me; — fast fall the e - ven - Thou on my head, in — ear - ly youth didst tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a - smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean - bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me. Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.'

I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.  
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

# The Lamb Has Overcome

Music and Lyrics: Luke Morton • ©2011 Cardiphonia Music

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of 34 measures across eight staves. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'The Lamb has over - come, the Lamb has over - come; the bat - tle's done and the vic-to-ry is won, for the Lamb has ov-er - come! No grave could hold Him down, no grave could hold Him down; up from the ground, "He is ri-sen!" was the sound, no grave could hold Him down. At God's right hand is He, at God's right hand is He; our per - fect plea as He lives to in-ter-cede, at God's right hand is He! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry be un - to His name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry be un - to His name!' The score ends with a double bar line at measure 34.

4 The Lamb has ov - er - come, the  
7 Lamb has ov - er - come; the bat - tle's done and the  
11 vic-to-ry is won, for the Lamb has ov-er - come! No  
14 grave could hold Him down, no grave could hold Him  
16 down; up from the ground, "He is  
19 ri-sen!" was the sound, no grave could hold Him down.  
22 At God's right hand is He, at  
25 God's right hand is He; our per - fect plea as He  
28 lives to in-ter-cede, at God's right hand is He! Wor-thy  
31 is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry be un - to His  
34 name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry  
be un - to His name!

The table now is spread, the table now is spread;  
the wine and bread, broken body and blood shed, the table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;  
he shall appear and wipe away each tear, the day is drawing near!

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name!*

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name!*

(Repeat Chorus)

## BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called,  
beloved in God the Father  
and kept for Jesus Christ:  
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

~

*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).

**Parenting Home Group** • This group would normally meet on the second Sunday of the month, but that's Mother's Day, so we're pushing it back a week to May 21.

**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: Aznoe

### Refreshments Volunteers

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

Today: Sery      Next Sunday: Jaques



**Worship at 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro**

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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.