

"He became what we are in order to enable us to become what he is."

Irenaeus (d. 202 A.D.)

"You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all... Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption."

J. I. Packer



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 10, 2017
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



LIGHTING OF THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE: *FAITH*

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 29:2

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12th Century Latin Hymn • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: 'O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.' The score ends with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and
ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that
mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of
God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra -
el.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry over the grave.
(Chorus)

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Chorus)

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Romans 7:18-19

I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite and gnaw and frighten me. Where will I go? I look to you, Lord Jesus, and I believe in you. Although my faith is weak, I cling to you and am made sure, for you have promised that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life. Even if my conscience is troubled and my sins frighten me and make me tremble, you have still assured me that my sins have been forgiven on account of your name. I cannot help myself and so come to you for help. Amen.

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

CHORAL OFFERTORY • “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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.

ADVENT READING • Matthew 2:1-15

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Hosea 11:1-4

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...

We extol you our God and King. You exist in the mystery of the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You live independent of all that you have created. You uphold and govern your creation by your wise and holy providence. Your wisdom is unsearchable, and your thoughts are higher than ours. Your justice is absolute and perfectly fair. There is none like you, the Holy One of Israel.

Yet, as our great God and King, you show mercy and compassion to your creatures.

You dwell with the meek and lowly. Your tender mercies are over all of your works. The broken spirit and the contrite heart you do not despise. You live with us in grace as our Father.

We come to you now through our Lord Jesus Christ to plead for your care for the Church.

Strengthen the churches that proclaim your gospel. Bless the churches and church plants of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery, and especially our church here at Ascension.

We pray also for your help and blessing for our city.

Grant your help and protection to our Mayor and City Council. Please bring financial prosperity to our city. Make Hillsboro a more just and merciful and peaceful community. Help your people to benefit our city and to reflect your grace in our callings.

Father, we thank you for the mercy and kindness you have shown to us in this country.

Give us wisdom in the use of our wealth. We ask for purity in the use of our freedoms. We ask that our leaders might serve with humility, compassion and justice.

Our Savior, we appeal to your great compassion for help to those among us who are suffering.

Heal those who are sick. Encourage those who are discouraged and depressed. Provide for those who are struggling financially. Comfort those who are grieving. Give hope to those who are suffering in guilt and doubt.

Our great God, we ask you to hear us and to work in us that which is pleasing to you, as we pray in the words our Savior 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.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: Charles Wesley & Mark Hunt • Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard • Public Domain

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
lease us; let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's
strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the
earth thou art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry
na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!

O'er the hills the angels singing, news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.

Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Trinity For Eternity

Text: Catherine Winkworth • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now, _____ our
Un - seal our lips, to sing your praise, _____ our
5 Un - til we join the hosts that cry, _____ "Ho-
8 hearts in true _____ de - vo - tion bow. _____
souls to you _____ in wor - ship raise. _____
9 ly are you! _____ O Lord most high!" _____
8 Your Spi - rit send, with grace di - vine, _____ and
Make strong our faith, in - crease our light, _____ that
13 And in the light of that blest place, _____ for -
8 let your truth _____ with - in us shine. _____ Glo - ry
we may know _____ your name a - right. _____
18 e'er be - hold _____ you face to face. _____
8 _ to God! _____ The Fa - ther, Son, _____ and Ho - ly Ghost!
23 To You, Lord _____ all praise! _____ The Trin - i - ty, _____
28 _ for e - ter - ni - ty!

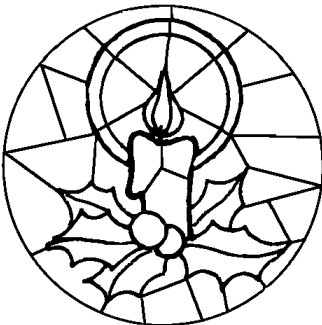
GOSPEL READING • Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “What?” (Rev. Eric Costa)



*Wilt thou love God as he thee? then digest,
My soul, this wholesome meditation,
How God the Spirit, by angels waited on
In heaven, doth make His temple in thy breast.
The Father having begot a Son most blest,
And still begetting—for he ne’er begun—
Hath deign’d to choose thee by adoption,
Co-heir to His glory, and Sabbath’s endless rest.
And as a robb’d man, which by search doth find
His stolen stuff sold, must lose or buy it again,
The Sun of glory came down, and was slain,
Us whom He had made, and Satan stole, to unbind.
’Twas much, that man was made like God before,
But, that God should be made like man, much more.*

John Donne (A.D. 1572-1631), “Holy Sonnet 15”



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. 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† 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 for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

* 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.

† Or, “universal.”

O Lamb Of God, Still Keep Me

Text: James George Deck • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor



8

4

O Lamb of God, still keep me near thy-wound-ed side;

8

'Tis on-ly there in safe-ty and peace I can a-bide.

11

What foes and snares sur-round me, what

14

lusts and fears with-in! The grace that sought and

found me, a-lone can keep me clean.

'Tis only in thee hiding, I feel myself secure;
'tis only in thee abiding, the conflict can endure;
thine arm the victory gaineth, o'er every hateful foe;
thy love my heart sustaineth in all its cares and woes.

Soon shall my eyes behold thee with rapture, face to face;
one half hath not been told me of all thy pow'r and grace:
thy beauty, Lord, and glory, the wonders of thy love,
shall be the endless story of all the saints above.

Once In Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander • Music: Henry J. Gauntlett • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle

4

8 shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his

8

8 bed: Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle

12

8 child.

Detailed description: The image shows the Tenor part of the hymn 'Once In Royal David's City'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins with a 4/4 time signature. The third staff begins with a 4/4 time signature. The fourth staff begins with a 4/4 time signature and ends with a double bar line.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

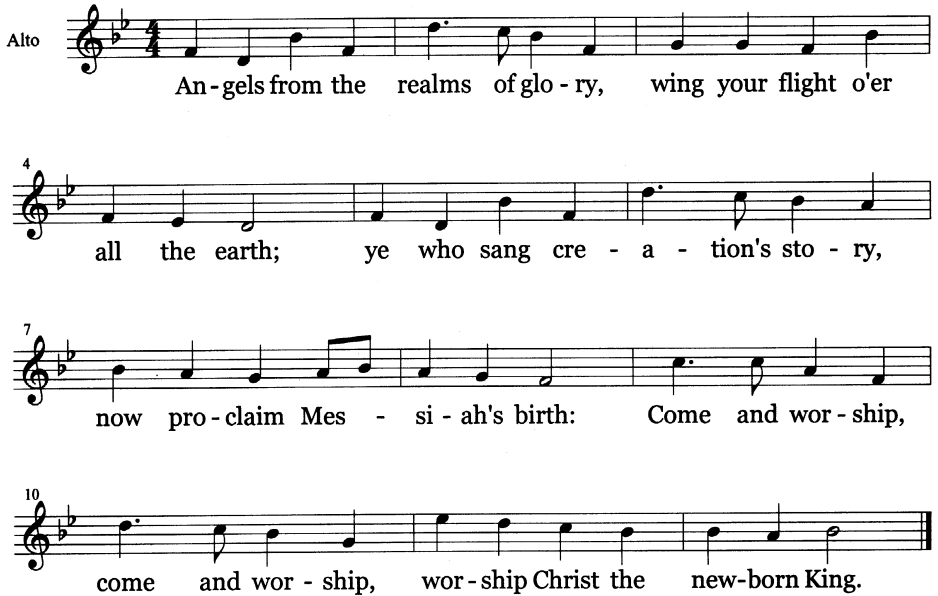
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall be around.

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 composed of eighth and quarter notes, with a dotted half note at the end of the first phrase. The lyrics are: '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.' The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, and 10 at the beginning of their respective staves. The final staff 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)

BENEDICTION • Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to you, brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

~

Remember: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christ-centered community and life of the church! For information about our regular meetings like home groups, bible studies for men and women, and more, please visit ascensionpc.org/calendar.

Advent Potluck • Today after Worship. Instead of Sunday School (and in place of the home group normally scheduled for that day) we'll enjoy a meal together in the fellowship hall. Please bring something to share!

ICS Christmas Gifts • In partnership with Immigration Counseling Service (ics-law.org), we have the opportunity to give Christmas gifts to several families of people escaping from human trafficking. If you would like to help, contact Sara Sery (the.serys@gmail.com). We will collect the gifts Sun., Dec. 17.

Refreshments Volunteers • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: Hamilton / Elliott

Next week: Jaques / Costa

Nursery Volunteers • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Join the nursery rotation! Contact: Rainy Aznoe (rainyrr@aol.com).

Today: Elliott

Next week: Aznoe



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.