"The love of Christ nourishes our love for the other, and the only way we can remain in Christ's love is to continue to love one another. It is a profoundly relational understanding of the Christian life that sees the maturation of our friendship with God and one another as the ultimate fulfillment of our lives here on earth. This friendship is where true joy is found. Just as a vineyard is meant to produce good grapes for choice wine to gladden the hearts of humanity, so are members of the church called to love one another, find true joy, and share it with the world."

Gisela Kreglinger

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:4

# ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 25, 2018



#### CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!

#### May Jesus Christ Be Praised

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

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

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 • Hebrews 10:12-14

When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

# **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you!* 

### OFFERING • Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### 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 • Psalm 80**

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...

Father, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, *That we all may be one*. Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer*.

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully and humbly serve you, *That your Name would be honored by all people*. Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer*.

We pray for all who lead and guide your church, That they may be faithful and diligent servants of you. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.* Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.* 

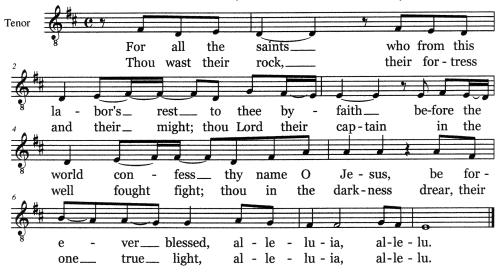
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake, *That we may know the joy of living for you*. Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer*.

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble, *That they may be delivered from their distress*. Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer*.

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to 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.

#### For All The Saints

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



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, Aleluia, Aleluia, Aleluia.

**God Of My Life** Text: William Cowper (1731-1800) • Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy ©2007 Red Mountain Music

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#### GOSPEL READING • John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Praise be to you, O Christ!* 

## SERMON • "Abiding in Christ" (Rev. Eric Costa)





# **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<sup>+</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 for prayer upon request [James 5:13-16].)

<sup>\*</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.

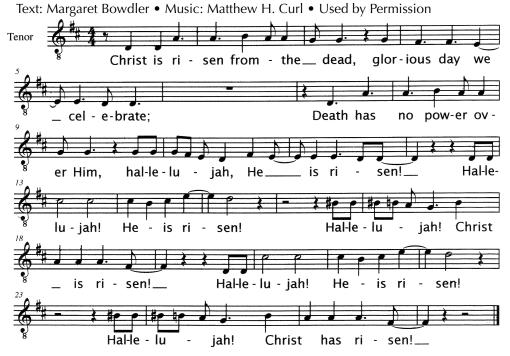
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> Or, "universal."

#### Psalm 46

Text & Music: Mike Crawford, Isaac Wardell • ©2009 Mike Crawford



#### **Christ Is Risen From The Dead**



As in Adam all men die, so all those in Christ shall live; he has conquered death and hell, hallelujah, he is risen! (Chorus)

No more need we fear the grave, now O death where is your sting? God gives us all the victory, hallelujah, he is risen!

(Chorus)

Christ is risen from the dead, glorious day we celebrate; Now we will live through faith in him, hallelujah, he is risen! (Chorus)

#### **BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5**

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

*Remember*: every gathering is an opportunity to invite a friend, to introduce people to the Christcentered 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**.

**After Worship** • Please stay a while and join us for coffee and conversation. Around 11:45am we start Sunday School—kids will meet in the sanctuary before going to their classes, and 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., Mar. 3 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street). We will continue a series of discussions based on the Lord's Prayer. (Check applyingthegospel.com this week for the blog post we'll discuss together.) RSVP and let Eric know what part of the meal you'll bring, and if you'll have a friend with you (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month (Mar. 4) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries. It's good for us to cultivate regular habits like these so that generosity and helping others become "second-nature" to us and to our children...

- <u>Alms</u> These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs among congregants and in the community as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know!)
- <u>Food pantry</u> The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, has many families who rely on help like this. To sign up, contact Jerilee Costa: jerilee.costa@gmail.com.

**Informational Meeting** • Sun., Mar. 11 after Worship... Join us for conversation led by our Elders and Deacons about various aspects of the ministry of our congregation. All are welcome, members are especially encouraged to attend.

**Men's Retreat** • Fri. - Sun., Apr. 27-29 in Oceanside... The cost will be \$80 for both nights, or \$40 for one night (meals included). Make checks payable to Ascension Presbyterian Church with "retreat" in the memo line, and give them to Tim Sery. There are only a few spots left, so *RSVP ASAP*.

Easter Choir • We're starting practice! Interested? Connect with John Elliott (john.a.elliott2@gmail.com).

**Refreshments Volunteers** • Bringing refreshments to share at church is a great way to practice hospitality. Ideally, each Sunday we have two volunteers: one bringing snacks for the children, the other bringing something for the adults. Contact: Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@gmail.com)

Today: Jaques / Costa

Next week: Elliott / \_\_\_\_\_

**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: Rickis Next week: Elliott

#### 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)

[] 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.

Email / Phone