

“The goal of Revelation is to bring encouragement to believers of all ages that God is working out his purposes even in the midst of tragedy, suffering, and apparent Satanic dominion. It is the Bible’s battle cry of victory.”

G. K. Beale, *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 5, 2020  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 49:13**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the LORD has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

# As With Gladness Men Of Old

Text: William Chatterton Dix • Music: Conrad Kocher • Public Domain

Tenor



8

4

7

8

10

8

As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing  
As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly  
As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle  
star-be-hold; as there with joy they hailed its be-fore light,  
rude and bare; so may we with ho-ly joy,  
lead-ing whom on-ward, beam-ing bright; so, most gra-cious  
pure, and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest  
God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
treas-ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 3:12-13**

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Holy One, we confess that we are unholy. We have taken the side of your Enemy and believed his lies rather than your Word. At a deep level we are suspicious of your goodness and authority. We revel in your gifts but do not delight in you. We are ungrateful and deluded in our pretended autonomy. You are Love, but we love ourselves and hate you. We sin. Clearly we do not deserve your forgiveness, but we are bold to ask for it because of your Son, Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. Please, Father, assure us of your love through the Gospel of your Son, purge our sins through the cleansing fire of your Holy Spirit, and crush the devil's power. We ask in the name of Jesus and according to his will. Amen.*

(Silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 2:17**

He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

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."

## **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 • Daniel 2:25-30**

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...

Through Jesus, whom we confess as Lord, we give thanks and praise to the Father, calling on him who is judge of all:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For all the peoples of the world; that they may know you as the God of peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For nations, leaders and governments; that integrity may mark all their dealings, we pray to you O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For all who labor for righteousness; that your presence and help may give them courage, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For communities torn by dissension and strife; that your forgiveness may bring them healing, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved; that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For the Church, your household and family; that she may be firm in the confession of her hope, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

For our pastor, and for all who bear Christ's name; that their lives may proclaim your glory, we pray to you, O Lord:

*Father, your kingdom come.*

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep: make us perfect in all goodness to do your will and to be what you would have us be; through him to whom be glory forever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

# The First Noel

Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The first No - el the an - gel did  
say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they  
lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier  
sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so  
deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the carol 'The First Noel'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo and meter are indicated as 3/4. The lyrics are: 'The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing thier sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' The score ends with a double bar line.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*(Chorus)*

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a King was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*(Chorus)*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*(Chorus)*

# Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o." The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing  
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply  
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis  
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

*(Chorus)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

*(Chorus)*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 1:1–3**

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON • “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Rev. Eric Costa)**



THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11**

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

*I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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].)



## From The Depth Of Woe (Psalm 130)

Text: Martin Luther (Based on Psalm 130) • Music: ©1997 Christopher Miner

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord turn a gra - cious ear to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion. If Thou in - i - qui - ties dost mark, our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O who shall stand be - fore Thee? O who shall stand be - fore Thee?"

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the  
voice of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord  
turn a gra - cious ear to me and hear  
my sup - pli - ca - tion. If Thou in - i - qui - ties dost  
mark, our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O who  
shall stand be - fore Thee?  
O who shall stand be - fore Thee?

To wash away the crimson stain grace, grace alone availeth;  
Our works, alas! are all in vain, in much the best life faileth;  
No man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,  
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my trust is in the Lord and not in my own merit;  
On him my soul shall rest, his Word upholds my fainting spirit:  
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support:  
I wait for it with patience.

And though I wait the whole night through and till the dawn appeareth,  
My heart still trusteth in his might, it doubteth not nor feareth:  
Do thus, O you of Israel's seed, you of the Spirit born indeed;  
And wait till God appeareth.

Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.  
Our shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

**On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing**  
Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Tenor

On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to  
hear the news - the an - gels bring; On  
Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to  
hear the news - the an - gels bring: News of great  
joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our mer - ci - full - King's  
birth.

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice part. It consists of seven staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;  
when sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;  
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;  
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore, Amen!"

# Joy To The World

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

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare 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." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 2/4. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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 • 2 Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be multiplied to you  
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

~

*Every gathering is an opportunity to invite friends,  
to introduce others to the Christ-centered community and life of the church!*

**After Worship** • Please stay a while for coffee and conversation! (There will be no Sunday School today.)

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month (today) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries to help each other and our neighbors in the community...

- ALMS — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know! Contact: [deacons@ascensionpc.org](mailto:deacons@ascensionpc.org).)
- FOOD PANTRY — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, is an Oregon Food Bank site that serves about 50 families who rely on help like this. Please bring dry beans to donate—let's try to collect 100 items in total!

**Athanasius Discussion Group** • Beginning in late January, the Stevenson family will host a series of weekly discussions of Athanasius' fourth-century classic, *On The Incarnation*. Dinner and on-site babysitting will be provided. If you would like to join us, please email Rob ([robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com](mailto:robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com)) and indicate:

1. Adults and older children who would like to participate.
2. Any evening conflicts you have (nights in the week that would NOT work for your family).
3. Number and ages of children who would need babysitting.

**Coffee Mugs** • About 2/3 of our reusable coffee mugs have gone missing from our hospitality supplies. If you have a mug to return or one to donate to replenish our supplies, that'd be great!

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

Today: Douglas

Next week: Hamilton

**Nursery Volunteers** • Can you play with young children and help their parents once every 6-8 weeks? Contact: Rainy Aznoe ([rainyrr@aol.com](mailto:rainyrr@aol.com)).

Today: Stevenson

Next week: Aznoe

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

Northwest Church Planting Network ([nwcpcnetwork.com](http://nwcpcnetwork.com))

Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org))

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))



**Public Worship • 10am Sundays • SE 12th & Walnut, Hillsboro • [ascensionpc.org](http://ascensionpc.org)**

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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.