



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 99:1-5

The LORD reigns, let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

Joy To The World

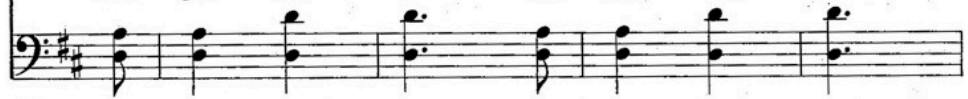
Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frederick Handel • Arr: Lowell Mason
Public Domain



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
He comes to make His bless - ings flow
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love,
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,



1. And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na -



And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
Far as, far as the curse is found.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



ture sing,

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:19-20

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:21-22

You, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 10:8

"Freely you have received. Freely give."

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 • Matthew 19:16–30

And behold, a man came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

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...

Father Eternal, God Almighty, you have brought forth from the root of Jesse a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

He is your anointed one, the promised Messiah, in him you are well pleased. We come to you in his service, to offer our prayers of intercession for the coming of his kingdom.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be faithful to her Lord, bearing witness to his reign in every land among every people.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be our Lord and Shepherd.

We pray for those whom you have appointed to be ministers of your gospel. We especially ask for your protection and help for our pastor.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be Lord of all the earth.

We pray that you draw all people to kneel before the Prince of Peace. Please establish justice and peace between nations in your world.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords.

We pray for the rulers of our nation that they might be wise, fearing the Lord to whom they must bow in the world to come.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of your people.

We pray for those among us who suffer, for those who are lonely, for those without home or family, for those who are depressed and discouraged, for those who are seeking work, for those who are sick, for those who are grieving.

Praise, honor and glory belong to you, Eternal Father, and to your Son, who taught us to pray 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.

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears • Music: Richard S. Willis • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of ten staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are as follows:

It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose
glo - rious song of old, from
peace - ful wings un - furled, and
form are bend - ing low, who
an - gels bend - ing near the earth to
still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er
toil a - long the climb - ing way with
touch their harps of gold: "Peace
all the wea - ry world: A -
pain - ful steps and slow, Look
on the earth good will to men, from
bove its sad and low - ly plains they
now! For glad and gold - en hours come
heav - en's all - gra - cious King;" the
bend - on hov - 'ring wing, and
swift - ly on the wing: O
world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bles - sed an - gels
rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels

19
sing.
sing.
sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in 8/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C', which then changes to '8' for the rest of the piece. The lyrics are: 'Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!'.

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with
3 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:
7 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -
10 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

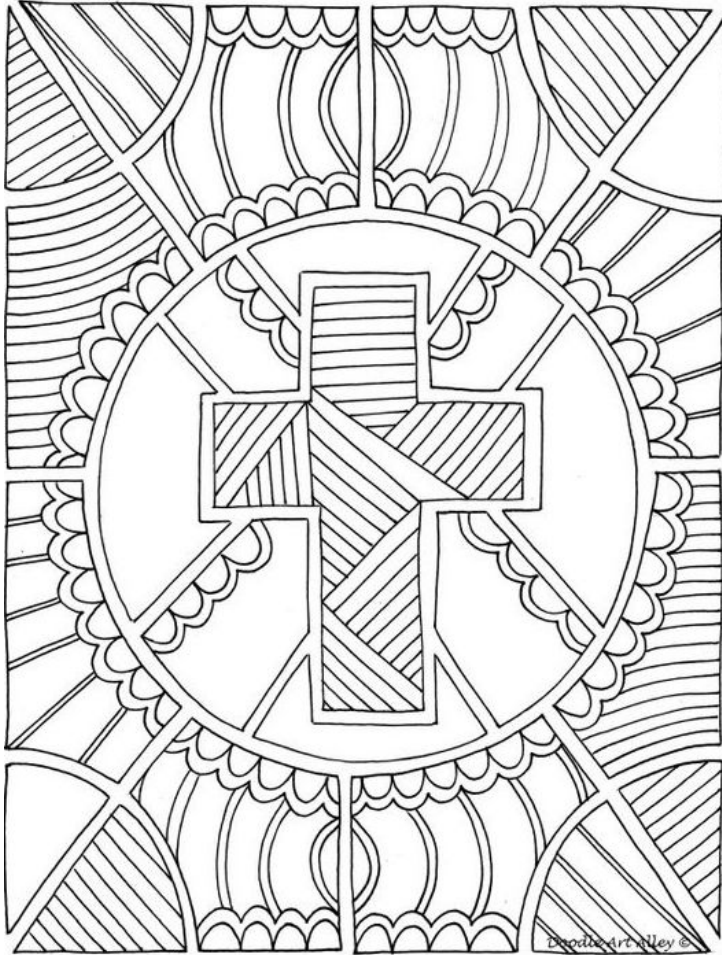
NEW TESTAMENT READING • Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Goodness” (Rev. Eric Costa)



“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” (Psalm 23:6)

“Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you.” (Psalm 31:19)

“My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 31:14)

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)



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.

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].)

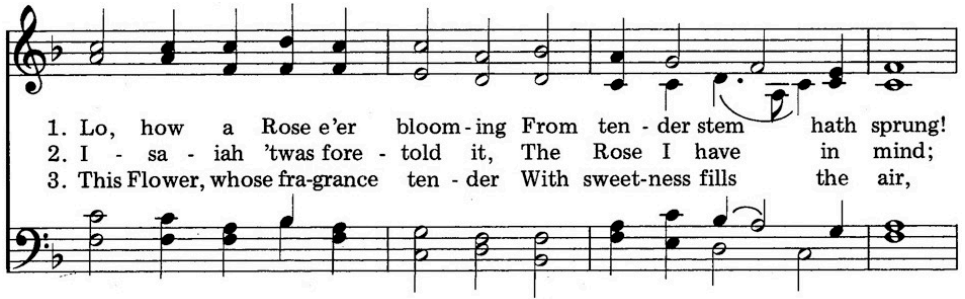
* When the Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell," we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

† Or, "universal."

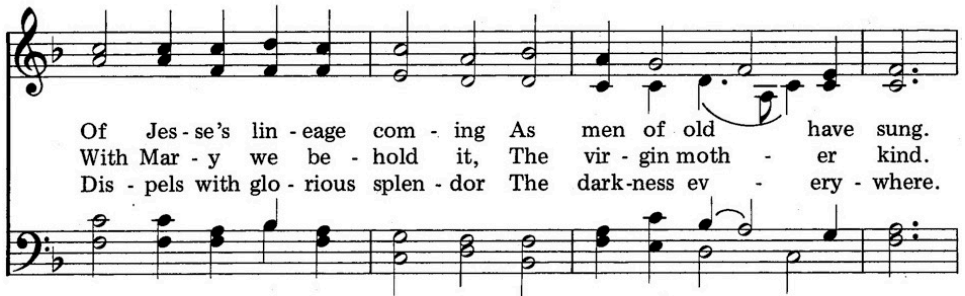
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Text: 15th Century German Carol • Translator: Theodore Baker

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599 • Harmonized by Michael Praetorius
Public Domain



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind;
3. This Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,



Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.
With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.
Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a Flow - er bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right She bore to men a
True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death He



win - ter, When half - gone was the night.
Sav - ior, When half - gone was the night.
saves us And light - ens ev - ery load.

Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4th Century), Martin Luther (16th Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 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,

3
8 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

6
8 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.

9
8 Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____

15
8 In the high - - - est!

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff starts at measure 8 and ends with a double bar line. The second staff starts at measure 3 and ends with a double bar line. The third staff starts at measure 6 and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff starts at measure 9 and ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff starts at measure 15 and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. There are three measures of 'Glo - ri - a!' with blank lines for lyrics, and one measure of '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 • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

~

FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In deference to current state mandates, we are limiting our services to 50 participants each. Please sign up early if you plan to attend a service. (If you need access to the online signup sheet, contact Eric: rev.eric.costa@gmail.com) If your name is not on the list by the time of the service on Sunday, and the service is already full, or if you are experiencing symptoms of illness, we ask that you would instead join us on Zoom.

Please wear a mask and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households.

During Communion, parents, please distribute the bread and cup to participating children.

Thank you for your help making others feel comfortable joining us for Worship!

FOR THOSE JOINING US ON ZOOM...

Please remain “muted” throughout the service, but feel free to “unmute” afterwards and catch up with each other. (You can find each Sunday’s liturgy posted online at ascensionpc.org/worship.)

ADVENT MINISTERIAL RELIEF FUND OFFERING

Each Advent season we participate in our denomination’s Ministerial Relief Fund offering. This is a practical way to care for widows, retired ministers, and other servants of the church who are in financial distress. If you would like to help others in this way, visit pcarbi.org/lookafter. **Every gift given on Tue., Dec. 1 will be matched.**

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com)

Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org) at Oregon State

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

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-----> (Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)

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.