



ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 99:9

Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

O Come All Ye Faithful

Text: John F. Wade (1711-1786) • Music: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry of the God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 2:13-14

You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

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 26

OF DAVID.

- 1 Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- 2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.
- 4 I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
7 proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- 8 O LORD, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells.
- 9 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,
10 in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- 12 My foot stands on level ground;
in the great assembly I will bless 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...

(Elder prays)

And now as our Savior taught us, we 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.

As With Gladness Men Of Old

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

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious
him whom heaven and earth a - dore, so, may we with
pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest
bring our ran - somed lives at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
wil - ling feet e - ver seek the mer - cy seat.
trea - sures bring, Christ, to you, our heaven - ly King.
star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry 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.

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

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

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing.

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

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 • “Faithfulness” (Rev. Eric Costa)



“Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.” (Psalm 36:5)

“His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.” (Psalm 91:4)

“By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for.” (Proverbs 16:6)

“I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.” (Hosea 2:20)

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live *by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*” (Galatians 2:20, italics an alternative translation to the ESV’s, “by faith in”)



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.

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].)

What Child Is This?

Text: William Dix • Music: Greensleeves (16th Century English Carol) • Public Domain

1 What Child is this who, laid to rest On Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come pea - sant, king to own Him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lo - ving hearts en - throne Him.

Chorus

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

1 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born King:
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, — Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord:
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! — Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, — off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, — risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —
veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; — hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —

with th'an - ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, — our Im - ma - nu - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us se - cond birth.

BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In accordance with current state mandates, we are limiting our services to 75 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.

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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.