



# ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 13, 2020



THE WORD

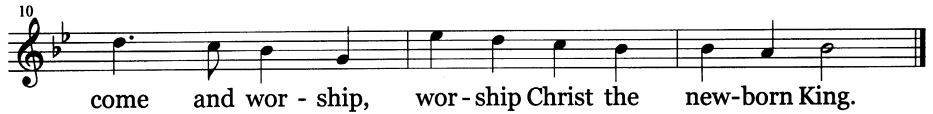
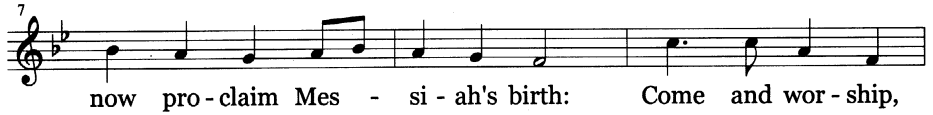
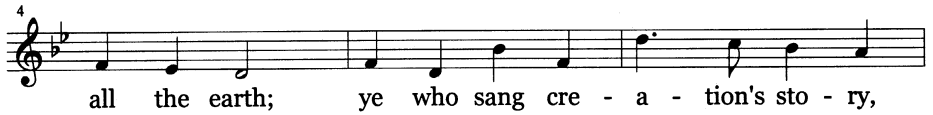
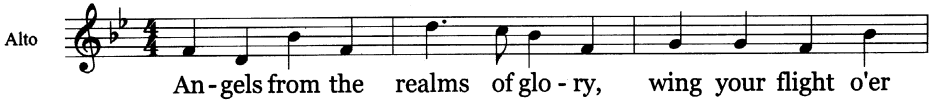


**CALL TO WORSHIP • Matthew 11:28-29**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

# Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Henry Smart • Public Domain



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)*

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5**

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Our Father in heaven, we confess that we have doubted your gracious love. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our own agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Timothy 1:15**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Acts 2:44-45**

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

## **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 12:9–21

Jesus went on from there and entered their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” <sup>13</sup> Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all <sup>16</sup> and ordered them not to make him known. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

- <sup>18</sup> “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
<sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;  
<sup>20</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;  
<sup>21</sup> and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

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...

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

*Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that, as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.*

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

*We pray for peace in every corner of the world: where there is war, where there is persecution, where there is starvation, where there is sickness, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.*

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*In him was life and the life was our light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Cause that light to shine ever brighter in us and through us. Amen.*

# Away In A Manger

Text: Martin Luther, Tim Sauerwein • Music: James R. Murray • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Away In A Manger'. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 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 3/4 time signature. The second staff begins with a measure rest and a '6' above it. The third staff begins with a measure rest and a '12' above it. The lyrics are: 'A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, the The an - gels pro - claimed it, the pro - phets fore - told, but It was his strange glo - ry to make Him - self low, my lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The an - gels in heav - en looked how can God be what a man - ger can hold? Cre - a - tor and mas - ter, oh sor - rows to share and my bur - dens to know. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, pro - down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. how can it be that God was a ba - by and lay there for me? - tect and de - fend, my Help - er, my Broth - er, my Sav - ior and Friend.'

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, the  
The an - gels pro - claimed it, the pro - phets fore - told, but  
It was his strange glo - ry to make Him - self low, my  
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The an - gels in heav - en looked  
how can God be what a man - ger can hold? Cre - a - tor and mas - ter, oh  
sor - rows to share and my bur - dens to know. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, pro -  
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
how can it be that God was a ba - by and lay there for me?  
- tect and de - fend, my Help - er, my Broth - er, my Sav - ior and Friend.

# On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Text & Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582) • Transl. Jane M. Joseph (c. 1917)

Arr. Gustav Holst (c. 1917) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
His the doom our the mirth; when he came

4 chil - dren sing earth, to the Lord, Christ our King,  
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth;

7 born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would

10 gave us. I - de - o, o, o,  
hide him.

13 I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o,

16 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

*(Chorus)*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, Heaven's king, born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*(Chorus)*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> **gentleness**, self-control.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • “Gentleness” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.” (Ps. 25:9)

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger... A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.” (Prov. 15:1, 4)

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matt. 5:5)

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt. 11:28-29)

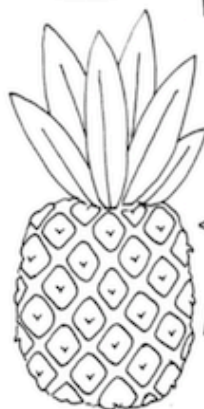
“Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.” (1 Pet. 3:3-4)

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.” (Gal. 6:1)

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Pet. 3:15)

“He is a meek king; he will admit mourners into his presence, a king of poor and afflicted persons... He is a physician good at all diseases, especially at the binding up of a broken heart.” (Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*)

LOVE JOY



the  
Fruit  
of the  
Spirit



Peace

Patience

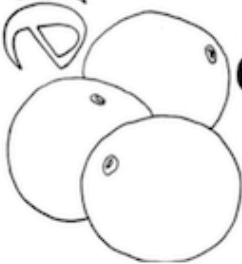
Kindness



Goodness

FAITHFULNESS

gentleness



SELF-CONTROL







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.*

**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].)

# All Praise To Thee Eternal Lord

Text: Martin Luther • Music: American folk tune • Public Domain

Alto

All praise-to thee, e - ter - nal Lord,  
5 clothed in a garb of flesh and blood  
9 choos - ing a man - - - ger for a throne  
13 while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.

Once did the skies before thee bow;  
a virgin's arms contain thee now,  
while angels, who in thee rejoice,  
now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest,  
that weary ones in thee may rest;  
forlorn and lowly is thy birth;  
that we may rise to heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night  
to make us children of the light;  
to make us, in the realms divine,  
like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done;  
by this to thee our love is won;  
for this we tune our cheerful lays,  
and sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

# O Holy Night

Text: John S. Dwight • Music: Adolphe Adam • Public Domain

Tenor

8 O ho - ly night - the stars are bright - ly shin -  
5 Tru - ly He taught - us to love one a - noth -  
8 ing, it is the night of our dear Sav - ior's birth.  
10 er, His law is love and His gos - pel is peace.  
8 Long lay the world - in sin and er - ror pin -  
14 Chains shall He break - the slave he is our bro -  
8 ing till He ap - peared and the soul felt its worth.  
18 ther, and in His name all op - res - sion shall cease.  
8 A thrill of hope the wear - y soul re -  
22 Sweet hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus  
8 joic - es, for yon - der breaks a new and glor - ious  
26 raise we, let all with - in us praise His ho - ly  
8 morn. Fall - - - on your knees - - - O hear -  
32 name.  
8 the an - gel voic - es! O night - - - di -  
37 vine - - - O - night - - - when Christ was born!  
42 O night! Di - vine! O night!  
48 O night di - vine!

## BENEDICTION • 2 Peter 1:2

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

~

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://pcarbi.org/lookafter).

•

### PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

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

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

Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org)) at Oregon State  
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

[ascensionpc.org](http://ascensionpc.org)

-----> (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.