



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 10, 2021



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 113:1-3

Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673-735 • Music *Giestliche Kirchengesange*, 1623

Public Domain

Tenor

8
A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up -
To whom the an - gels, draw - ing nigh: "Why
"A - gain shall ye be - hold him so As

3
hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le -
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le -
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le -
ye to - day have seen him go. Al - le -

5
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! And with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In glo - rious pomp as - cend - ing

8
trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al - le -
see Je - sus - re - splen - dent maj - es - ty.
say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph day!"
high, Up to the por - tals of the sky.

11
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

14
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 • 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Colossians 3:1–4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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...

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in His name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all generations, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation to all.

Strengthen those you have chosen that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of comfort, you bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow.

Look with compassion on those who are troubled, cheer them by your word, and bring them healing as a sign of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God, whose word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In Thee Is Gladness

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631 • Music: Giovanni Gastoldi, 1556-1622

Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Thee Is Gladness'. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score begins with a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'In thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, If he is ours, — We fear no pow - ers, Not of sun - shine of my heart. By thee are giv - en The gifts of earth or sin or death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis - heav - en, Thou the true — re - deem - er art. Our souls thou tress - es; He can changes — them with a breath. Where - fore the wak - est; our bonds thou break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly Has built se - sto - ry Tell of his glo - ry With heart and voic - es; All heav'n re - cure - ly And stands for - ev - er Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are joy - ces In him for - ev - er; Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for pin - ing To see thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing, To thee are glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love him and praise him And still shall cleav - ing; Naught us can sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! raise him Glad hymns fo - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!' The score ends with a double bar line.

1
In thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
3
If he is ours, — We fear no pow - ers, Not of
6
sun - shine of my heart. By thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth or sin or death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -
9
heav - en, Thou the true — re - deem - er art. Our souls thou
tress - es; He can changes — them with a breath. Where - fore the
12
wak - est; our bonds thou break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of his glo - ry With heart and voic - es; All heav'n re -
15
cure - ly And stands for - ev - er Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joy - ces In him for - ev - er; Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for
18
pin - ing To see thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing, To thee are
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love him and praise him And still shall
cleav - ing; Naught us can sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
raise him Glad hymns fo - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

God Is The Strength Of My Heart

Text: Psalm 73 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8
God-is good to His peo - ple, His mer-cy to me,
5
8
is al-ways un - fail - ing, though I could not see.
9
8
And when my faith fal - tered, I en-vied the proud.
13
8
In doubt and dis - qui - et my spir - it was bowed.
17
8
Trust-in the Lord God, He is un-fail - ing,
21
8
He is the strength of my heart ev - er more!
the good and the pure.

The wicked all prosper, and firm is their health;
they suffer no pangs as they gather their wealth.
They never are troubled with sickness or pain,
but boast to all others of ill-gotten gain.

(Chorus)

They question God's knowledge and boldly defy
the might and the justice of God the Most High.
The wicked grow wealthy, have comfort and peace,
while I, daily chastened, see troubles increase.

(Chorus)

In doubt and temptation, I rest Lord in you;
my hand is in your hand, whatever I do.
You always are with me; you guide with your word,
and soon into glory will take me, O Lord.

(Chorus)

Whom have I, O Savior, in heaven but you?
On earth for none other I long but for you.
My flesh and my heart may be weakened and sore,
but God is the strength of my heart evermore.

(Chorus)

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

- 2 Vapor* of vapors, says the Preacher,
vapor of vapors! All is vapor.
- 3 What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “All Is Vanity... Under The Sun” (Rev. Eric Costa)

* Hebrew *hebel* translates literally as “vapor, breath, mist.” Like one’s visible breath on a cold day, it is insubstantial, elusive, and fleeting. The ESV follows several other versions (notably the King James Version) in translating it figuratively as “vanity,” highlighting the connotations of emptiness and futility.

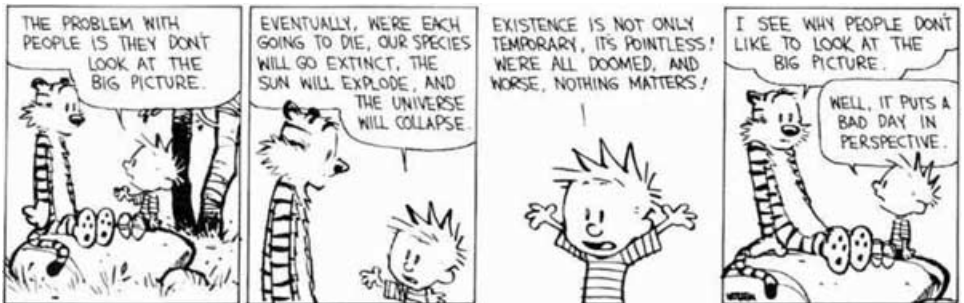
“O LORD, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!” (David, Psalm 39:4-5)

“What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” (James 4:14)

“Many Christians have grown up traveling the prophetic roads of the Old Testament and the Pauline highways of the New Testament. Wisdom highways are less traveled. The Song of Solomon is like a back-road brothel to us. (As a young man I was told by a pastor not to read this book until after I was married!) Job is like a long stretch of desert road with no night light and no gas stations or rest stops for miles. People can get stuck out there with no help, so we rarely travel there without a great deal of preparation. James is like an old law building that doesn’t seem to fit the gospel landscape. We drive around it and wonder if we should bulldoze it. Ecclesiastes sounds like a crazed man downtown. He smells like he hasn’t bathed—looks like it too—and as we pass by he won’t stop glaring at us and beckoning to us that our lives are built on illusions, and that we are all going to die. So, most of us choose to get our lunch at a different shop on a less dreary corner of town.” (Zack Eswine)

“In order to know and enjoy God properly, we first have to see the emptiness of life without him, becoming thoroughly disillusioned with everything the world has to offer.” (Philip Ryken)

“[‘Everything is meaningless.’] The function of Ecclesiastes is to bring us to the point where we begin to fear that such a comment is the only honest one. So it is, if everything is dying. We face the appalling inference that nothing has meaning, nothing matters under the sun. It is then that we can hear, as the good news which it is, that *everything* matters—for God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.’ That is how the book will end. On this rock we can be destroyed: but it is a rock, not quicksand. There is the chance to build.” (Derek Kidner)





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].)

Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

Text: Martin Luther • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when
Here the true pas - chal Lamb we see, whom
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to
Then let us feast this ho - ly day on

3
our of - fens - es giv - en; but now at God's right
life and death con - tend - ed. The vic - tor - y re -
God so free - ly gave us. He died on the ac -
which the Lord in - vites us. Christ is Him - self the
6
Christ, the bread of hea - ven. The Word of grace has

hand He stands and brings us life from heav - en.
mained with life; the reign of death was end - ed.
curs - ed tree, so strong His love to save us.
joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
9
purged a - way the old and e - vil leav - en.

There - fore let us joy - ful be, and sing to God right
Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says His death has swal - lowed
See His blood now marks our door; faith points to it death
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine
12
Christ a - lone our souls will feed; he is our meat and

thank - ful - ly loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
up our death; its sting is lost for - ev - er.
pass - es o'er, and Sa - tan can - not harm us.
to our hearts; the night of sin is end - ed.
17
drink in - deed; Faith lives u - pon no oth - er!

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
23
lu - ia!

Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton • Music: American Melody • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.'

A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that
5 saved a wretch like me! I once was
10 lost but now am found was blind but
14 now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
he will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:5

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

~

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.)

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)

Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpcnetwork.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.