



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 17, 2021



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

Text: Edward Perronet • Music: Oliver Holden • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: 'All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown Him Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown Him Lord of all.' The score includes measure numbers 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let
an - gels pros - trate fall; bring forth the roy - al
di - a - dem and crown Him Lord of
all; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and
crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
Join in the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 12:15a, 25a

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God... See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. 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 short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 12:22-24

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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 • Romans 8:18–25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations,
hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need,
give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.
We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music

Tenor

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice part. It consists of five staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: A - bide with me; fastfallthe e - ven - Thou on my head,in ear - ly youth didst tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a - smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean - bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me. Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

A - bide with me; fastfallthe e - ven -
Thou on my head,in ear - ly youth didst
tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a -
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -
bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

O Lord, By Grace Delivered

Text: Psalm 30 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

O Lord, by grace de - liv - ered, I
In pros - p'rous days I boast - ed: un -
now with songs ex - tol; my foes you have not
moved I shall re - main; for Lord, by your good
suf - fered to glo - ry o'er my fall. O Lord, my God, I
fa - vor my cause you did main - tain; I soon was sor - ley
sought you, and you did heal and save; - you,
trou - bled, for you did hide your face; I
Lord, from death did ran - som and keep me from the
cried to you Je - ho - vah, I sought Je - ho - vah's
grave. O Lord, by grace de - li - - vered! - I
grace.
now with songs ex - tol! His ho - ly name re -
mem - ber! - You saints, Je - ho - vah praise!

What profit if I perish, if life you do not spare?
Shall dust repeat your praises, shall it your truth declare?
O Lord, on me have mercy, and my petition hear;
that you may be my helper, in mercy, Lord, appear.

(Chorus)

My grief is turned to gladness, to you my thanks I raise,
who has removed my sorrow and girded me with praise;
and now, no longer silent, my heart your praise will sing;
O Lord, my God forever, my thanks to you I bring.

(Chorus)

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 1:4-11

- 4 A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.
- 5 The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.
- 6 The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.
- 7 All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.
- 8 All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.
- 9 What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new under the sun.
- 10 Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new”?
It has been already
in the ages before us.
- 11 There is no remembrance of former things,
nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be
among those who come after.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “There Is Nothing New... *Under The Sun*” (Rev. Eric Costa)

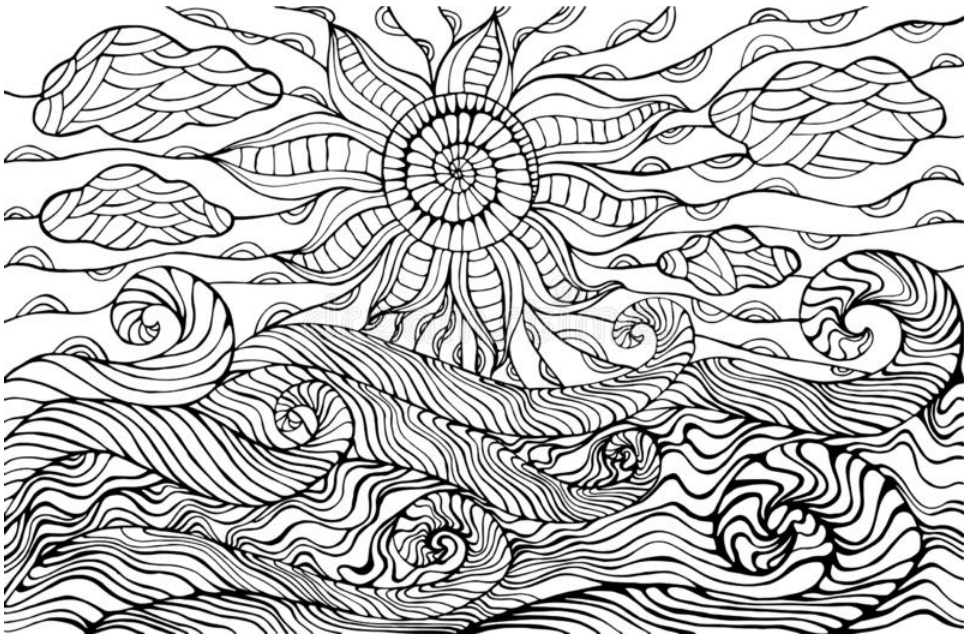
"If you have an insignificant origin, and an insignificant destiny, then there's no other conclusion than that your life is insignificant." (R. C. Sproul)

"Like the ocean, our senses are fed and fed but never filled. And like the wheel of nature, our history is always turning back on itself, failing of its promise. The journey goes on; we never arrive." (Derek Kidner)

"This side of eternity, life is a breath. We do the same things over and over again in a world repeating itself over and over again, and then we die, only to be followed by our children who will do the same things in the same way and then meet the same end. Being a Christian doesn't stop this being true. Rather, it should make us the first to stop pretending that it isn't true. That is the Preacher's aim. It may not make perfect sense to us yet, but he is carefully laying the foundations for the main argument of his book: only preparing to die will teach us how to live." (David Gibson)

"When the Preacher makes his case that everything new is an old thing repeated, he does not refer to technology and invention... Every human being has tried to navigate food, clothing, and shelter. Each one has wrestled with what it means to work, to provide a way of life, to make their way, to hope and weep for their children. Crimes, wounds, and enemies are not new. Handling weather patterns, sickness, romance, aging, sadness, forgiveness, commitment, laughter, and dreams has not originated with us. Putting a space station in the skies has not delivered us from dictators, or eradicated a selfish heart. New inventions make our bones heal quicker, but not our minds, not our hearts... Uniqueness does not bring about the gain for which we strive. After all, the next new thing is a hand-me-down." (Zack Eswine)

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:5)





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."

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Text & Music: Stuart Townend • ©1995 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Deep The Father's Love For Us'. It consists of ten staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 15. The lyrics are: 'How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how Be-hold the man up-on the cross, my I will not boast in an-y thing, no vast be-yond all mea-sure, that sin up-on His should-ers; a-gifts, no pow'r, no wis-dom; but He should give His on-ly Son to shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call I will boast in Je-sus Christ, His make a wretch His trea-sure. How out a-mong the scof-fers. It death and res-ur-rect-ion. Why great the pain of sear-ing loss; the Fa-ther turns His was my sin that held Him there un-til it was ac-should I gain from His re-ward? I can-not give an face a-way as wounds which mar the com-plished. His dy-ing breath has an-swer, but this I know with cho-sen one bring man-y sons to glo-ry. brought me life, I know that it is fin-ished. all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran-som.'

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore • © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has done great things we will say to - ge - ther. We will feast and weep no more. We will not be burned by the fire, He is the Lord our God we are not consumed by the flood Up-held pro-TECT - ed, ga - thered up". The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning and a double bar line with repeat dots at the end.

(Chorus)

*We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things!" we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more!*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul, be not afraid;
for the promised morning— oh, how long?
O God of Jacob, be my strength.

(Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed.
You are the Faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
bind us together, bring shalom.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

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.