



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 24, 2021



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 118:1-4

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Text: Matthew Bridges • Music: *Diademata*, George Elvey • 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: 'Crown him with man-y crowns, the Lamb up-on his throne; Hark how the heav'n-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own; a-wake, my soul and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy match-less king through all e-ter-ni-ty.'

Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his
4 throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all
7 mu - sic but its own; a - wake, my soul and sing of
11 him who died for thee, and hail him as thy
14 match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven, enthroned in worlds above,
crown him the King to whom is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall;
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Peter 1:18-19

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

CONFESSION OF SIN

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross. Show us what it cost you to give up your Son that we might become your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

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 • John 7:37–39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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...

(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.

O God Our Help In Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts (paraphrasing Psalm 90) • Music: William Croft • Public Domain

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the sha - dow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
5 Time, like an e - ver rol - ling stream, bears all of us a - way,
6 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the stor - my blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from e - ver - las - ting you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ri - sing sun.
we fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - ening day.
be now our guard while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Only In God (Psalm 62)

Text & Music: John Michael Talbot • © 1980 Birdwing Music / BMI Songs

1. On ly in God is my soul at rest; in Him comes my sal -
2. On - ly in God is found safe - - ty when my en - e - my pur -

7 - va - tion He on - ly is my rock, my -
-sues me On - ly in God is found glo - - ry, when

13 strength, and my sal - va - tion My strong - hold, my -
I am found meek and found low - ly.

19 sav - ior, I shall not be a - fraid at all, my strong - hold,

26 my sav - ior, I shall not be moved. 3. On - ly in

34 God is my soul at rest; in Him comes my sal - va - tion.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 1:12-18*

¹² I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an evil business that God has given to the children of man to be troubled with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vapor and herding wind.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is herding wind.

¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "The Futility of 'Philosophy'" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"All men by nature desire to know." (Aristotle)

"You can get all A's and still flunk life." (Walker Percy)

"Without the benefit of divine revelation, figuring out the meaning of life is as unattainable as striving after the wind." (Philip Ryken)

"He who teaches man knowledge—
the LORD—knows the thoughts of man,
that they are but a vapor." (Psalm 94:10-11)

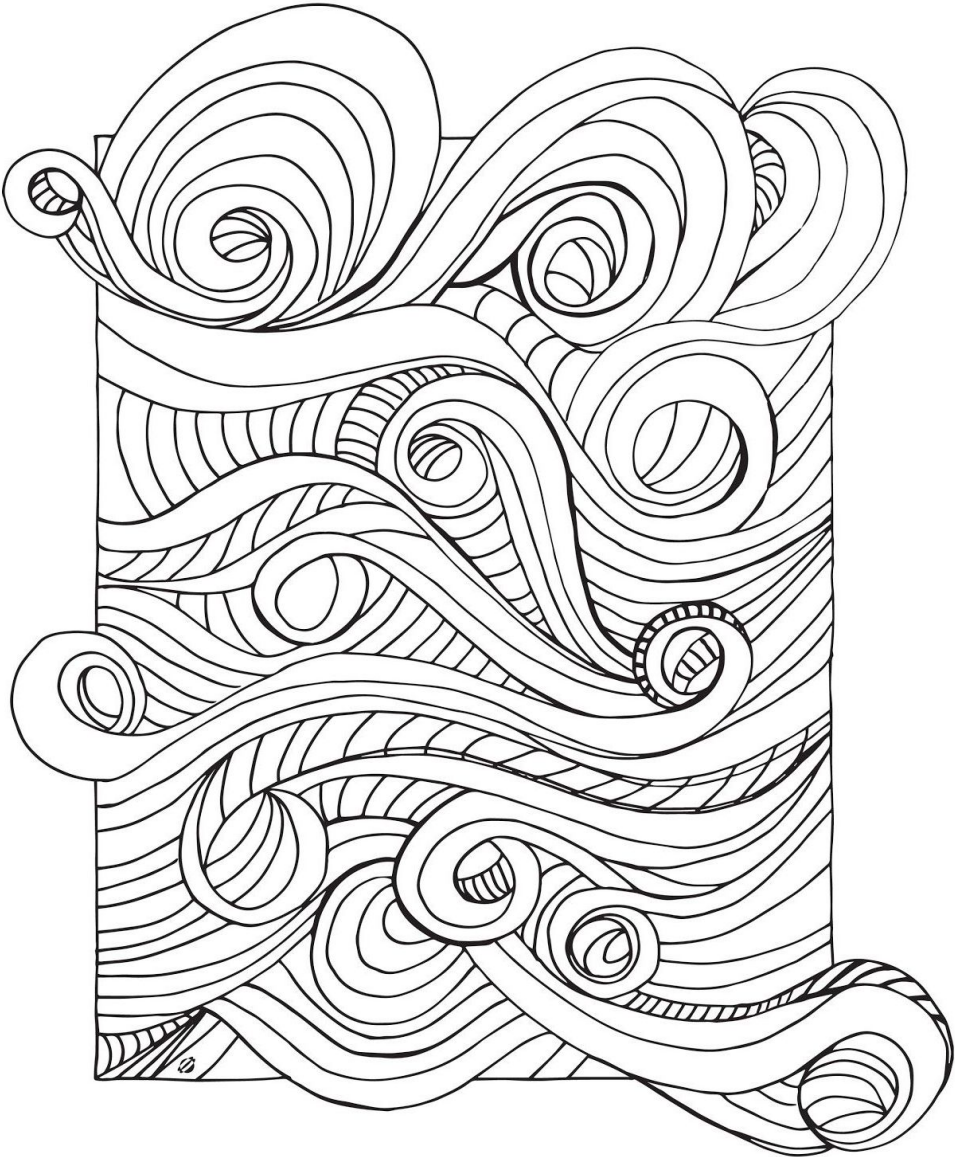
"Whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,
but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death." (Wisdom personified, Proverbs 8:35)

"We do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age." (1 Corinthians 2:6)

"The wisdom of this world is folly with God." (1 Corinthians 3:19)

"In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge... See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:3, 8)

* With some differences in translation from the ESV.





THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Colossians 1:15-20

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For 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. 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 Wondrous Love Is This

Text: American Folk Hymn • Music: Southern Harmony • Public Domain



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my
2 When I was sin-king down, sin-king down, sin-king
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won-drous love is this, O my soul! What
down, when I was sin-king down, sin-king down;— when
sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing!— To
on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!— And



won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
I was sin-king down be - neath God's right eous frown, Christ
God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while
when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and



bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing, while mil lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800) • Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy

©2007 Red Mountain Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Of My Life'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a vocal line and corresponding lyrics. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: 'God of my life to Thee I call; Friend of the friend-less and the faint; That were a grief I could not bear, Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall; where should I lodge my deep com - plaint? didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer; When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail, Where but with Thee whose o - pen door, But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God, Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail. In - vites the help - less and the poor? sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load. Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not; And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the Lord is sure to plead.'

God of my life to Thee I call;
Friend of the friend-less and the faint,
That were a grief I could not bear,
Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall;
where should I lodge my deep com - plaint?
didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer;
When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail,
Where but with Thee whose o - pen door,
But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God,
Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail.
In - vites the help - less and the poor?
sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load.
Poor though I am, des - pised, for -
got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not;
And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the
Lord is sure to plead.

BENEDICTION • 2 Peter 1:2

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

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FOR THOSE JOINING US IN PERSON...

Greetings! In accordance with current state mandates, we are asking people to wear masks and observe “social distancing” (6ft) between households during Worship.

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.