



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ZOOM WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 14, 2021



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 135:1-5**

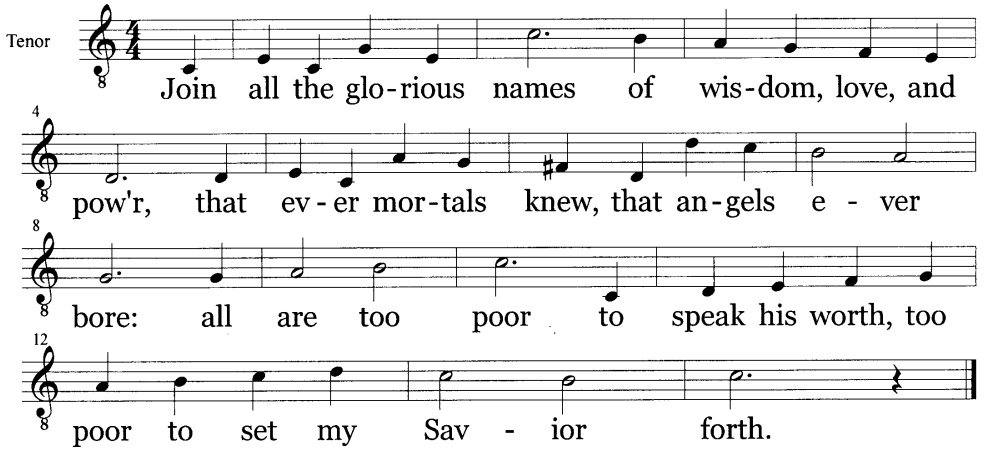
Praise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,  
who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!  
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!  
For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.  
For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

## Join All The Glorious Names

Text: Issac Watts • Music: John Darwall • Public Domain

Tenor



8  
Join all the glo-rious names of wis-dom, love, and  
4  
8  
pow'r, that ev-er mor-tals knew, that an-gels e-ver  
8  
bore: all are too poor to speak his worth, too  
12  
8  
poor to set my Sav-ior forth.

Great Prophet of my God, my tongue would bless thy Name,  
by thee the joyful news of our salvation came,  
the joyful news of sin forgiv'n, of hell subdued, and peace with heav'n.

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood, and died;  
my guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside:  
his pow'rful blood did once atone, and now it pleads before the throne.

Thou art my Counselor, my pattern, and my Guide,  
and thou my shepherd art; O keep me near thy side;  
nor let my feet e'er turn astray to wander in the crooked way.

My Savior and my Lord, my Conqueror and my King,  
thy scepter and thy sword, thy reigning grace I sing:  
thine is the power; behold I sit in willing bonds beneath thy feet.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 John 4:10**

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 John 4:15**

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Hebrews 13:16**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing 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.*

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING • Colossians 3:17, 23-24**

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him...

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

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, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

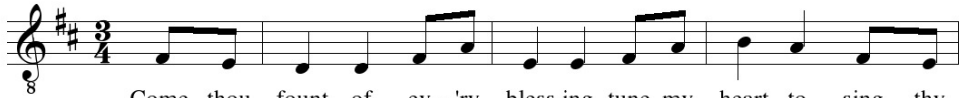
*We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

*not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

# Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

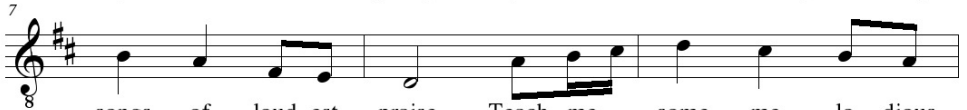
Text: Robert Robinson (1758) • Music: Asahel Nettleton (1825) • Public Domain



Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing tune my heart to sing thy  
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm  
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for  
come; and I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly  
be; Let that grace, now, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious  
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
wand' - ring heart to thee. Prone to wand - er - Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the  
strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God: he, to  
feel it - prone to leave the God I love: Here's my



mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 2:18-26\*

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vapor. <sup>20</sup> So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vapor and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vapor.

<sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup> for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? <sup>26</sup> For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vapor and herding wind.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • “Toil” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“The basic things of life are sweet and good. Food, drink, and work are samples of them... What spoils them is our hunger to get out of them more than they can give.”

(Derek Kidner)

“Life is meant to be enjoyed not mastered.”

(David Gibson)

“We’ve been given a place to be, some things to do, a need for sustenance, and a people to share this with. God originates these gifts. God is present with his gifts...”

“The Preacher invites us to see each moment as the means by which God pursues us among the pots and pans and marriage kisses of our lot. To accept this as our reality is to pursue God’s visitation right where we find ourselves.”

(Zack Eswine)

“For the infinite variety of your creative expression,  
I praise you, O God. You have made  
even the necessary act of eating  
a nurturing comfort and  
a perpetual delight.”

(Douglas McKelvey, *Every Moment Holy*, “Liturgies of the Moment for Practicing the Presence of God”)

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\* With some differences in translation from the ESV.



## 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.*

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\* 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.”

# Only In God (Psalm 62)

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

C G/B Am G F G

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 -

C G/B Am G

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

F G C F

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

Am F G Am F

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

Am F G C C

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

G/B Am G F G C

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

## BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.