



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 21, 2021



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 136:1-3

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O Worship The King

Text: Robert Grant (Psalm 104) • Music: Johann Michael Haydn • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "O wor-ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O". The second staff starts with a measure rest of 5 measures, then continues: "O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, Whose". The third staff starts with a measure rest of 9 measures, then continues: "grate-ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love; our robe is the light, whose can - o - py space. His". The fourth staff starts with a measure rest of 13 measures, then continues: "shield and De - fend - er the An - cient of Days, pa - char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and vil - ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise. dark is his path on the wings - of the storm."

O wor-ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O
O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, Whose
grate-ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love; our
robe is the light, whose can - o - py space. His
shield and De - fend - er the An - cient of Days, pa -
char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and
vil - ioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise.
dark is his path on the wings - of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Revelation 1:17b-18

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to God his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 • Ephesians 1:3–10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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...

(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.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William M. Runyan • Lyric: Thomas O. Chisolm • ©1923/1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Tenor

Great is thy faith-fulness, O God my Father; there is no
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev-er wilt
be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mercies I see: all I have
need-ed thy hand hath pro - vid-ed, Great is thy faith-ful-ness,
Lord, un - - - to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten-thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

You Are Before Me, Lord

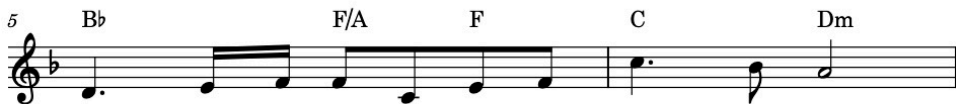
Text: Psalm 139, Ian Pitt-Watson • Music: Trad. Scottish Melody • Public Domain



1.You are be - fore me, Lord, You are be - hind,
2.Then from Your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
3.If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
4.If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
5.Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;



And o - ver me You have spread out Your hand;
And from Your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
And I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
Try me, O God, my mind and spir - it try;



Such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
If I as - cend to heav - en You are there,
Your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
Sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to You:
Keep me from an - y path that gives You pain,



Too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
And still are with me if in hell I lie.
And Your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
The night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
And lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵ That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Time and Eternity” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Time offers a repeated rhythm of beginnings and endings. Learning to receive rather than resist these rhythms, we draw nearer to God and his purposes for the life and lot he has given us. In short, we enter an already established routine that we did not choose but that shapes how we live.” (Zack Eswine)

“Because God lives forever and I will not, I can experience the several different times of my life knowing that they are part of a bigger picture that I cannot see but which is visible to a good and wise God who sees the whole as beautiful. Part of being wise in this world is learning to accept that we have only very limited access to the big picture... If we could see the end from the beginning, and understand how a billion lives and a thousand generations and unspeakable sorrows and untold joys are all woven into a tapestry of perfect beauty, then we would be God.” (David Gibson)

“Ecclesiastes enables us to see perpetual change not as something unsettling but as an unfolding pattern, scintillating and God-given. The trouble for us is not that life refuses to keep still, but that we see only a fraction of its movement and of its subtle, intricate design. Instead of changelessness, there is something better: a dynamic, divine purpose, with its beginning and end. Instead of frozen perfection there is kaleidoscopic movement of innumerable processes, each with its own character and its period of blossoming and ripening, beautiful in its time and contributing to the overall masterpiece which is the work of one Creator.” (Derek Kidner)



HE HAS
MADE
EVERYTHING
BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME.

Ecclesiastes 3:11





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].)

Jesus Paid It All

Text: Elvina M. Hall • Music: John T. Grape • Public Domain

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;
2. For noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim;
3. And now com - plete in Him, My robe, His right - eous - ness,
4. Lord, now in - deed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine a - lone,
5. When from my dy - ing bed My ran - somed soul shall rise,
6. And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,

Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
I'll wash my gar - ments white In the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
Close shel - tered 'neath His side, I am di - vine - ly blest.
Can change the lep - er's spots, And melt the heart of stone.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," Shall rend the vault - ed skies.
I'll lay my tro - phies down, All down at Je - sus' feet.

Refrain

Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

WORDS: Elvina M. Hall, 1865. MUSIC: "All to Christ"; John T. Grape, 1868. Public Domain.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Text: George Matheson • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1997 Christopher Miner



O Love that will not let me go, I
O Light that follow'st all my way, I
O Joy that seek'st me through pain, I
O Cross that lift'st up my head, I



rest my weary soul in thee; I
yield my flick'ring torch to thee; My
can not close my heart to thee; I
dare not ask to fly from thee; I



give thee back the life I owe, That
heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, That
trace the rain-bow through the rain, And
lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, And



in thine ocean depths its flow May
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day May
feel the promise is not vain, That
from the ground there blos-soms red Life



ri-cher, full-er be.
bright-er, fair-er be.
morn shall tear-less be.
that shall end-less be.

BENEDICTION • Revelation 22:12-13, 21 (responsive)

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me,
to repay each one for what he has done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end...”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

~

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.)

•

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)

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

-----> **(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.