



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 21, 2021



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 150:1-2, 6 (*responsive*)**

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

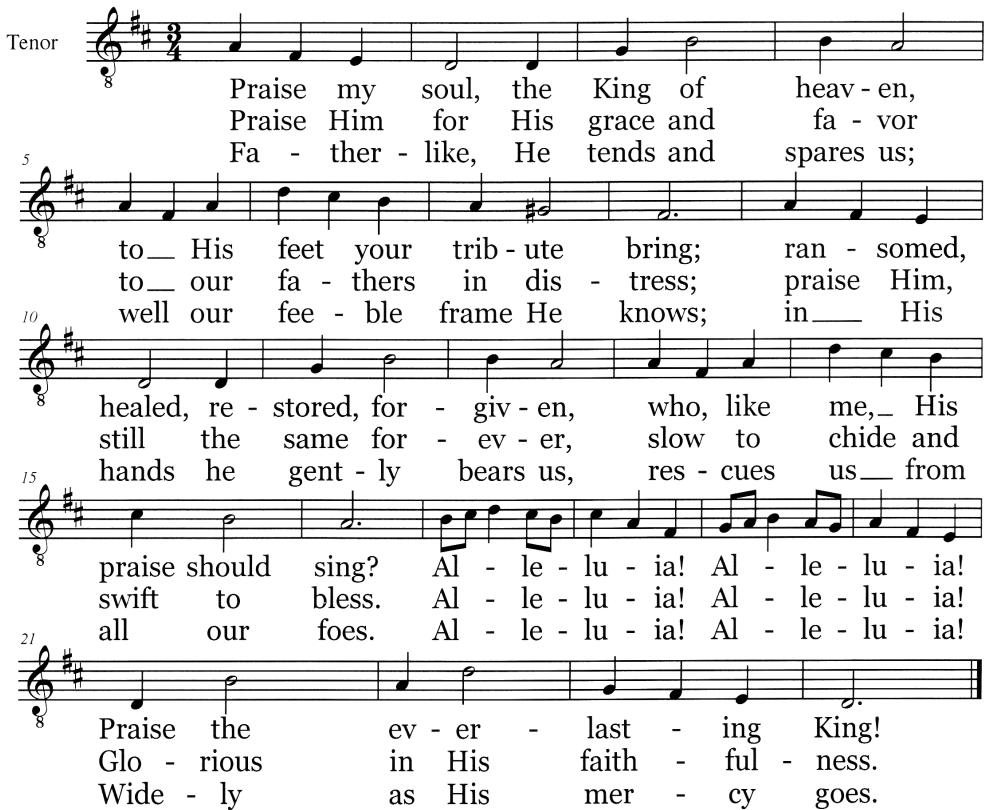
*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!*

*Praise the LORD!*

# Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

Text: Henry F. Lyte • Music: Mark Andrews • Public Domain

Tenor



8 Praise my soul, the King of heav-en,  
Praise Him for His grace and fa-vor  
Fa-ther-like, He tends and spares us;  
5 to His feet your trib-ute bring; ran-somed,  
to our fa-thers in dis-tress; praise Him,  
10 well our fee-ble frame He knows; in His  
8 healed, re-stored, for-giv-en, who, like me, His  
still the same for-ev-er, slow to chide and  
15 hands he gent-ly bears us, res-cues us from  
8 praise should sing? Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
swift to bless. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
21 all our foes. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
8 Praise the ev-er-last-ing King!  
Glo-rious in His faith-ful-ness.  
Wide-ly as His mer-cy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
but while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the High Eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 32:1-4**

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 32:5**

I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Psalm 50:14**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High.

## **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 15:12–17**

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

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.*

# To You, O Lord, I Lift My Eyes

Text: Psalm 123 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



8  
To You, O Lord, I lift my eyes,  
4  
O Lord our God, Your mer-cy show,  
7  
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.  
For hu - man pride and scorn we know.  
8  
As ser - vants  
10  
Re - proach and  
8  
watch their mas - ter's hand, Or  
13  
shame your saints en - dure, From  
8  
maid - ens by their mis - tress stand,  
16  
sin - ners who ap - pear se - cure.  
8  
So to the Lord our eyes we raise,  
20  
To You O Lord, I lift my eyes,  
8  
Un - til His mer - cy He dis - plays.  
To You en - throned a - bove the skies.

# 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 4:4-12\*

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vapor and herding wind.

<sup>5</sup> The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

<sup>6</sup> Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and herding wind.

<sup>7</sup> Again, I saw vapor under the sun: <sup>8</sup> one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vapor and an evil business.

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! <sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup> And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • "Friendship" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Better is a little with the fear of the LORD  
than great treasure and trouble with it.  
Better is a dinner of herbs where love is  
than a fattened ox and hatred with it." (Proverbs 15:16-17)

"A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for adversity." (Proverbs 17:17)

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:3-5)

"Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

"Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (James 3:16-18)

"Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5)

"Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name." (3 John 15)

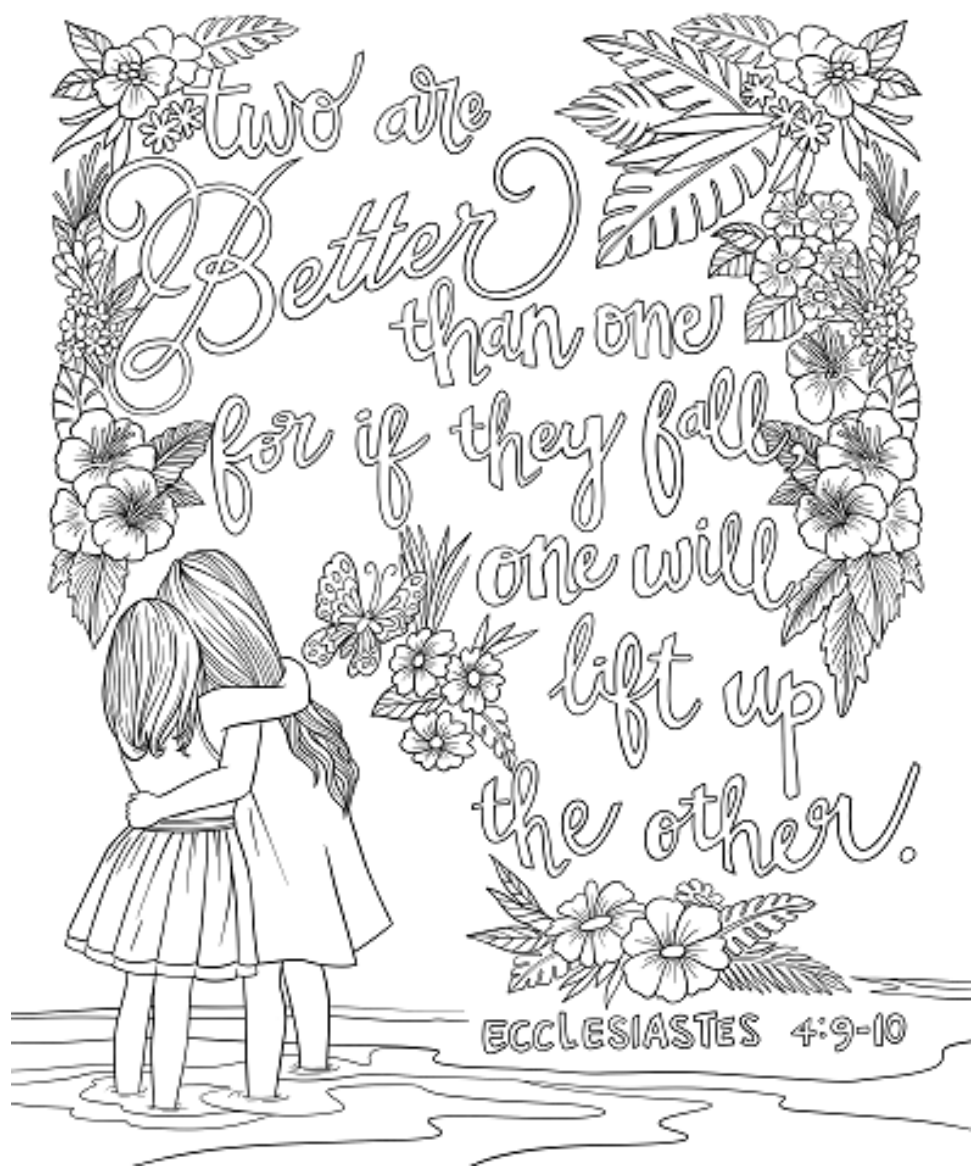
"To be unhappy at home is the ultimate result of all ambition." (Samuel Johnson)

"The value of life is not what you earn, but who you relate to. It's not what you buy but what you give... Life lived in community and mutual interdependence is better all around for everyone." (David Gibson)

"Togetherness is better than loneliness. Connection is better than competition." (Philip Ryken)

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\* With some differences in translation from the ESV.



ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10





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.*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE • Colossians 3:15**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

*(Greet one another with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")*

**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].)*

# I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: *Kingsfold* • Public Domain



I \_\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come \_\_\_  
I \_\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -  
I \_\_\_ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I \_\_\_



un - to me \_\_\_ and rest; Lay \_\_\_ down O wear - y one lay down your \_\_\_  
hold, I free - ly give The \_\_\_ liv - ing wa - ter; thirs - ty one, stoop \_\_\_  
am this dark \_\_\_ world's Light; Look \_\_\_ unto Me your morn shall rise, and and \_\_\_



soul u - pon \_\_\_ my breast." I \_\_\_ came to Je - sus as I was \_\_\_  
down, and drink, \_\_\_ and live." I \_\_\_ came to Je - sus, and I drank of  
all your days \_\_\_ be bright." I \_\_\_ looked to Je - sus, and I found in



wear - y worn \_\_\_ and sad I \_\_\_ found in Him my rest - ing place and \_\_\_  
that life - giv - ing stream; My \_\_\_ thirst was quenched my soul re - vived and \_\_\_  
Him my Star, \_\_\_ my Sun; and \_\_\_ in that light of life I'll walk till \_\_\_



He has made \_\_\_ me glad.  
now I live \_\_\_ in Him.  
travel - ing days \_\_\_ are done.

# The Lamb Has Overcome

Music and Lyrics: Luke Morton • ©2011 Cardiphonia Music

The Lamb has ov - er - come, the  
Lamb has ov - er - come; the bat - tle's done and the  
vic-to-ry is won, for the Lamb has ov-er - come! No  
grave could hold Him down, no grave could hold Him  
down; up from the ground, "He is  
ri-sen!" was the sound, no grave could hold Him down.  
At God's right hand is He, at  
God's right hand is He; our per - fect plea as He  
lives to in-ter-cede, at God's right hand is He! Wor-thy  
is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry be un - to His  
name! Wor-thy is the Lamb who was slain, glo-ry  
be un - to His name!

The table now is spread, the table now is spread;  
the wine and bread, broken body and blood shed, the table now is spread.

The day is drawing near, the day is drawing near;  
he shall appear and wipe away each tear, the day is drawing near!

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name!*

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, glory be unto his name!*

(Repeat Chorus)

## BENEDICTION • 2 John 3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us,  
from God the Father  
and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son,  
in truth and love.

~

**For Those Joining Us In Person...** Greetings! We hope that as many people as possible will feel comfortable joining us for Worship. So we're asking everyone to wear a mask and observe "social distancing" (6ft) between households during Worship. During Communion, parents, please distribute the bread and cup to participating children.

**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](http://ascensionpc.org/worship).)

**Coffee Hospitality** • We'd like to have someone pour and serve coffee after Worship each Sunday. If you'd like to join the rotation to help with this, contact Holly Elliott ([nerdymomma@gmail.com](mailto:nerdymomma@gmail.com)).

**Women's Study** • Connect on Zoom at 7pm on Mondays to study 1 John together. Contact Jerilee Costa ([jerilee.costa@gmail.com](mailto:jerilee.costa@gmail.com)).

**Good Friday Service** • 7pm Fri., Apr. 2.

**Easter Picnic** • After Worship on Sun., Apr. 4. Depending on the weather, join us outside at Tim & Sara Serys' home (17290 SW Seiffert Road, Scholls).

**Men's Breakfast** • 7:30am Sat., May 1 at Rob Stevenson's home (5037 NE Stable Court, Hillsboro).

**Summer Campout** • Fri., Aug. 20 - Sun., Aug. 22 at Beverly Beach State Park. Camp sites are limited! Register with Nicole Hamilton ([neh.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:neh.hamilton@gmail.com)).

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### PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

Northwest Church Planting Network ([nwcpcnetwork.com](http://nwcpcnetwork.com))

Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org)) at Oregon State

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))

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[ascensionpc.org](http://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.