



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • APRIL 25, 2021



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 49:13**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the LORD has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

# Come, Thou Almighty King

Text: Anonymous • Music: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796) • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 4, 8, and 12. The lyrics are: 'Come, thou Almighty King, Come, thou Incarnate Word, Come, Holy Comforter, To Thee, great One in Three, help us thy name to sing, help us to gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend! Thy sacred witness bear, in this glad hour. E - ter - nal praise be, hence, ever - praise. Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - tend! Come, and Thy peo - ple bless, and give Thy hour. Thou who al - migh - ty art, now rule in more. Thy sov - ereign ma - jest - y may we in to - ri - us, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Word suc - cess, Spi - rit of ho - li - ness on us de - ev' - ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of glo - ry see, and to e - tern - it - y love and a - Days. scend! power! dore!'

Come, thou Al - might - y King,  
Come, thou In - car - nate Word,  
Come, Ho - ly com - for - ter,  
To Thee, great One - in Three,  
help us thy name to sing, help us to  
gird on Thy migh - ty sword, our prayer at -  
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glo - ry see, and to e - tern - it - y love and a -  
Days.  
scend!  
power!  
dore!

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 147:2-3**

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Father of mercies, we confess that we have sinned against you. By your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into our hearts. Help us to see you as you are: with outstretched arms, a loving heart, and power to save. Help us to see Jesus, the friend of sinners, and to follow him more faithfully. As we have received him, so strengthen us to walk in him, depend on him, commune with him, and be conformed to him. Give us an experience of your grace that makes us bold for others, that we might joyfully tell our friends and neighbors of your saving mercy. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 147:11**

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Matthew 6:19-21**

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

## **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 • Matthew 5:1-12**

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...

We extol you our God and King. You exist in the mystery of the Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*You live independent of all that you have created. You uphold and govern your creation by your wise and holy providence. Your wisdom is unsearchable, and your thoughts are higher than ours. Your justice is absolute and perfectly fair. There is none like you, the Holy One of Israel.*

Yet, as our great God and King, you show mercy and compassion to your creatures.

*You dwell with the meek and lowly. Your tender mercies are over all of your works. The broken spirit and the contrite heart you do not despise. You live with us in grace as our Father.*

We come to you now through our Lord Jesus Christ to plead for your care for the Church.

*Strengthen the churches that proclaim your gospel. Bless the churches and church plants of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery, and especially our church here at Ascension.*

We pray also for your help and blessing for our city.

*Grant your help and protection to our Mayor and City Council. Please bring financial prosperity to our city. Make Hillsboro a more just and merciful and peaceful community. Help your people to benefit our city and to reflect your grace in our callings.*

Father, we thank you for the mercy and kindness you have shown to us in this country.

*Give us wisdom in the use of our wealth. We ask for purity in the use of our freedoms. We ask that our leaders might serve with humility, compassion and justice.*

Our Savior, we appeal to your great compassion for help to those among us who are suffering.

*Heal those who are sick. Encourage those who are discouraged and depressed. Provide for those who are struggling financially. Comfort those who are grieving. Give hope to those who are suffering in guilt and doubt.*

Our great God, we ask you to hear us and to work in us that which is pleasing to you, as we pray in the words our Savior taught us:

*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.*

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a  
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -  
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For  
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his  
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el  
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:  
the Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:  
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
his kingdom is forever.

## How Firm A Foundation

Text: Rippon's *Selection of Hymns* (1787) • Music: Trad. American Melody • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Firm A Foundation'. It consists of five 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, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'How firm a foundation, you saints of the'. The second staff continues: '"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis-'. The third staff: 'Lord, is laid for your faith in His excel-'. The fourth staff: 'lent mayed; for I am your God, and will still give you'. The fifth staff: 'word! What more can He say than to you He has'. The sixth staff: 'aid; I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to'. The seventh staff: 'said, to you who for refuge to Je-sus have'. The eighth staff: 'stand, up held by my righ-teous, om-nip-o-tent'. The ninth staff: 'fled?'. The tenth staff: 'hand.'

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design,  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ecclesiastes 7:1-12\*

- 1 A good<sup>†</sup> name is better<sup>†</sup> than precious ointment,  
and the day of death than the day of birth.
- 2 It is better<sup>†</sup> to go to the house of mourning  
than to go to the house of feasting,  
for this is the end of all mankind,  
and the living will lay it to heart.
- 3 Sorrow is better<sup>†</sup> than laughter,  
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad<sup>†</sup>.
- 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
- 5 It is better<sup>†</sup> for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise  
than to hear the song of fools.
- 6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,  
so is the laughter of the fools;  
this also is vapor.
- 7 Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,  
and a bribe corrupts the heart.
- 8 Better<sup>†</sup> is the end of a thing than its beginning,  
and the patient in spirit is better<sup>†</sup> than the proud in spirit.
- 9 Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,  
for anger lodges in the heart of fools.
- 10 Say not, "Why were the former days better<sup>†</sup> than these?"  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.
- 11 Wisdom is as good<sup>†</sup> as an inheritance,  
an advantage to those who see the sun.
- 12 For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,  
and the advantage of knowledge  
is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • "Otherworldly Wisdom" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Jesus... became to us wisdom from God." (1 Corinthians 1:30)

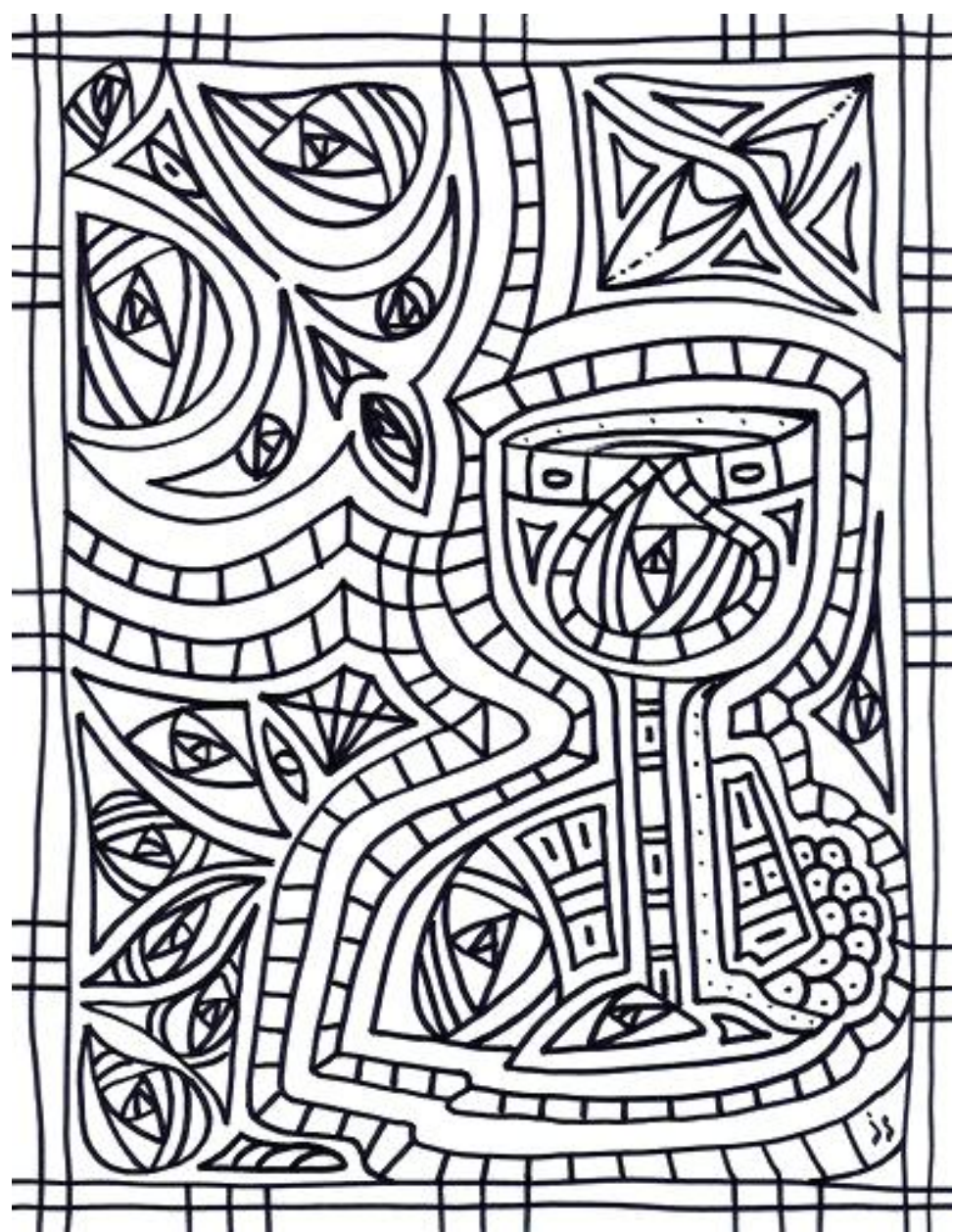
"To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better." (Philippians 1:21-23)

"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 3:17-18)

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\* With some differences in translation from the ESV.

† All words marked with a "†" translate some form of, or a word rooted in, the Hebrew *tov* ("good").







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.*

**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].)

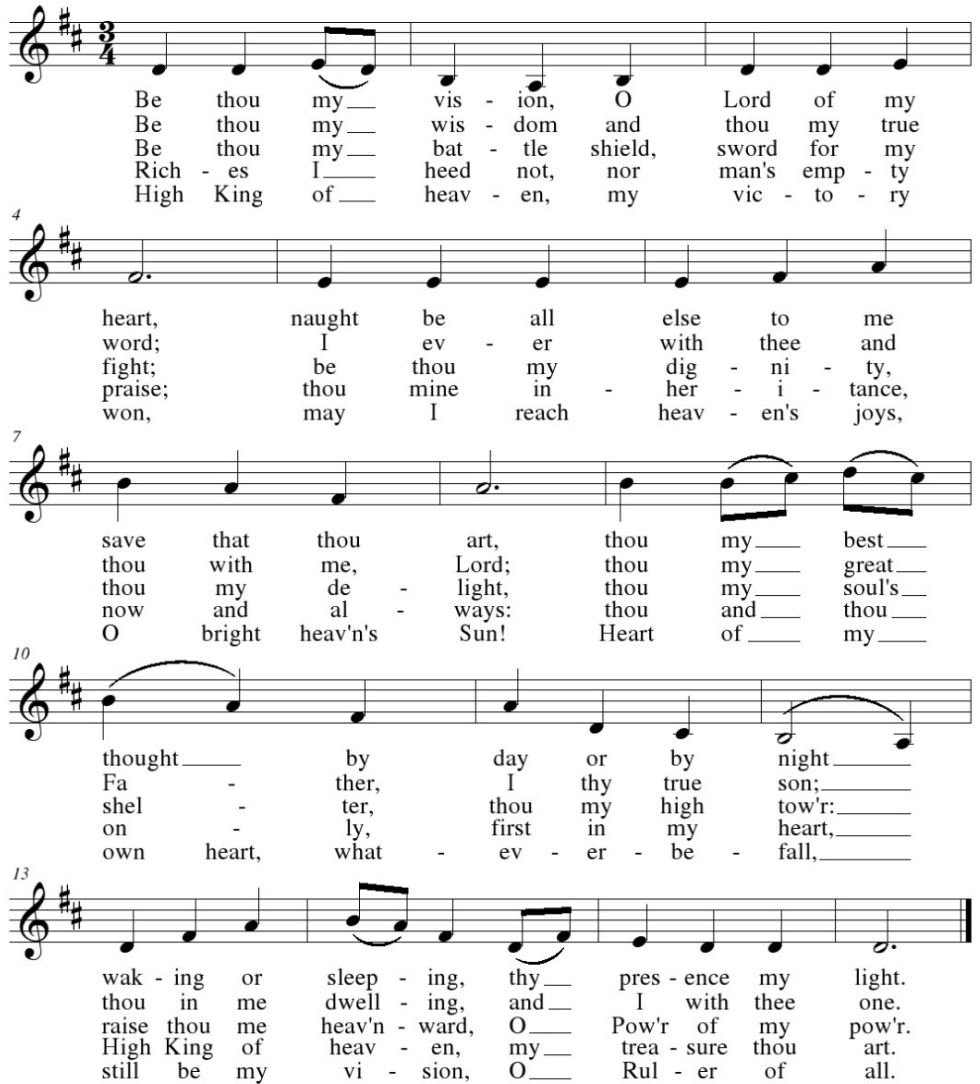
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\* When the Creed states that Jesus “descended into hell,” we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

† Or, “universal.”

# Be Thou My Vision

Text: Unknown, 8th Century • Music: *Slane* (Irish Folk Tune) • Public Domain



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my  
Be thou my wis - dom and thou my true  
Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my  
Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty  
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry

4  
heart, naught be all else to me  
word; I ev - er with thee and  
fight; be thou my dig - ni - ty,  
praise; thou mine in - her - i - tance,  
won, may I reach heav - en's joys,

7  
save that thou art, thou my best  
thou with me, Lord; thou my great  
thou my de - light, thou my soul's  
now and al - ways: thou and thou  
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my

10  
thought by day or by night  
Fa - ther, I thy true son;  
shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;  
on - ly, first in my heart,  
own heart, what - ev - er - be - fall,

13  
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

# 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)*

## BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make you increase and abound  
in love for one another and for all.

~

**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).)

**Informational Meeting** • Sun., Apr. 25 after 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)).

**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. Contact 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.