



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • NOVEMBER 28, 2021
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 33:1-5

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for the Alto voice part of the hymn 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20 indicating the start of each line. The lyrics are: 'O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him Christ the Lord.'

O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri -
um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to
Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him
born the King of an - gels; O
come let us a - dore him, O come let us a -
dore him, O come let us a - dore him
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
(Chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:19-20

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to give sacrificially, but we are begrudging. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that, joined with those from ages past who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the unshakeable kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:21-22

You, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Isaiah 61:1-3

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

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...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God's sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, saying

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.

As With Gladness Men Of Old

Text: William Chatterton Dix • Music: Conrad Kocher • Public Domain

Tenor



8

4

7

8

10

8

As with gladness men of old did the guid-ing
As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly
As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle
star-be-hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
cra-dle bed, there to may bend the knee be-fore
rude and bare; so may we with ho-ly joy,
lead-ing whom on-ward, beam-ing bright; so, most gra-cious
pure, and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest
God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee,
will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat,
treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413 • Music: *Divinum Mysterium*, 11th c.



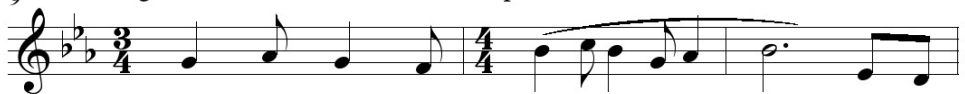
Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the
This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of
O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel
3 Christ to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O



worlds be - gan to be. he is Al - pha and O - me -
Vir - gin, full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv -
old with one ac - cord, Whom the Scrip - tures of the proph -
hosts, his prais - es sing; All do - min - ions, bow be - fore
6 Ho - ly Ghost, to thee, Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiv -



ga, he the Source, the End - ing he. Of the
ing bore the Sav - ior of our race; and the
ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he
him and ex - tol our God and King; Let no
9 ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be, Ho - nor,



things that are that have - been, and that
babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re -
shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre -
tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev' - ry
12 glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e -



fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ever - more!
vealed his sa - red face, ev - er - more and ever - more!
a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ever - more!
voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ever - more!
ter - nal vic - tor - y, ev - er - more and ever - more!

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit” (Rev. Eric Costa)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

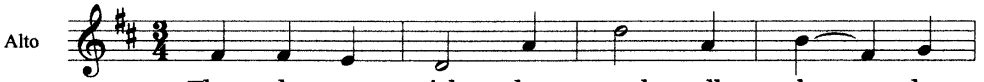
GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(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].)

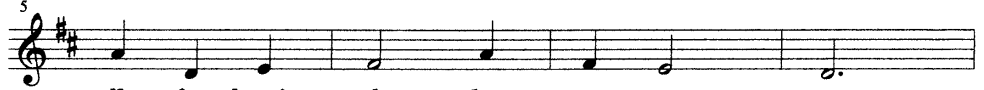
* Or, “universal.”

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain



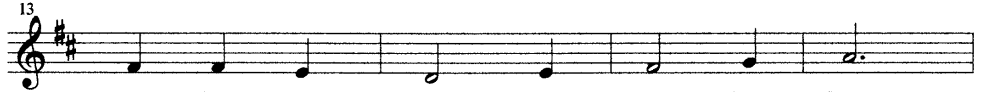
Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sav - ior and King we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
heav'n - ward by thine et - ter - nal plan.
make us what thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

We Three Kings

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins • Public Domain



We three kings of O - ri - ent are:
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain:
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:
Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume:
Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise:



Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far;
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom -
King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing,
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
Al - le - lu ia, Al - le - lu ia!



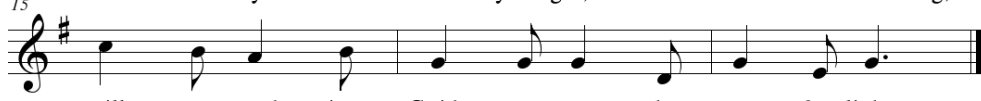
Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
O - ver us all to reign.
Wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Earth to heav'n re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Arr: Lowell Mason

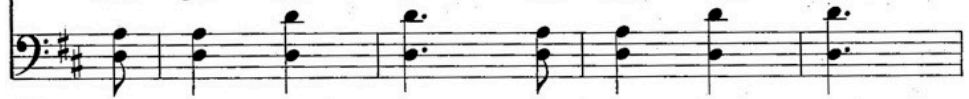
Public Domain



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
He comes to make His bless - ings flow
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love,
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,



1. And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na -



And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
Far as, far as the curse is found.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



ture sing,

BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called,
beloved in God the Father
and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

~

For Those Joining Us in Person... Greetings! We're glad you're here! Our access to God the Father, our relationship in Christ, our unity in the Spirit is the most important thing in the world. We hope that as many people as possible will feel comfortable joining us for Worship, so we're asking everyone to wear a mask while indoors. Whether or not this is an inconvenience to you, please extend patience and grace to each other during this time when we might have differing opinions on what it means to faithfully respond to God in our love for each other.

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.)

After Worship Today • From 11:40 to 12:15, children will gather in the sanctuary for Sunday School, and adults are welcome to join the Sermon Discussion in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Study • 6:30am Tuesdays at the Starbucks at the Sunset Esplanade (2521 SE TV Highway). This group is discussing Michael Reeves' book, *Delighting in the Trinity*.

Women's Study • 7:30pm Wednesdays. This group is discussing Dane Ortlund's book, *Gentle and Lowly*. Locations vary - contact Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Dec. 4 at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro). Please bring something to share for our meal together, and feel free to invite a friend. RSVP to Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Dec. 5) we participate together in some compassion and relief ministries to help each other and our neighbors in the community...

- ALMS — These gifts go toward a fund the deacons use to meet urgent needs as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know! Contact: deacons@ascensionpc.org.)
- FOOD PANTRY — The elementary school in the church's neighborhood, W. L. Henry, is an Oregon Food Bank site that serves about 50 families who rely on help like this. *Please bring dry beans to donate—let's try to collect 100 items in total!*

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.org)
Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpnetwork.com)
Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org) at Oregon State
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)
Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)

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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.