



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 12, 2021
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 34:3-5, 8

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed...

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

Alto

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in
Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,
"Glo - ry to the new - born King."

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

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 • 1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 37:1-11

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...

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem, may your church be a sign of hope and glory.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly risen from the dead, our Alpha and Omega, may the whole world live in peace and justice, according to Your will.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of promise, fulfill the needs and desires of those who are sick or sorrowful.

Lord, have mercy.

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.

Teach us to proclaim the good news of your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

God, teach us to pray as your Son taught His disciples, 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.

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears • Music: Richard S. Willis • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of nine staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: "It came up - on the mid - night clear, that Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose glo - rious song of old, from peace - ful wings un - furled, and form are bend - ing low, who an - gels bend - ing near the earth to still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er toil a - long the climb - ing way with touch their harps of gold: "Peace all the wea - ry world: A - pain - ful steps and slow, Look on the earth good will to men, from bove its sad and low - ly plains they now! For glad and gold - en hours come heav - en's all - gra - cious King;" the bend - on hov - 'ring wing, and swift - ly on the wing: O world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bles - sed an - gels rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels

19
sing.
sing.
sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with
3
8 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:
7
8 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -
10
8 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
13
8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of five staves of music in G major, 8/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F), and a time signature of 8/8. The lyrics are: "Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with". The second staff continues: "heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:". The third staff: "Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -". The fourth staff: "fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.". The fifth staff: "Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!". There are measure numbers 3, 7, 10, and 13 indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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 Meek” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off.” (Isaiah 29:18-20)

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle [meek] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

“Jesus, in his meekness, bore the brunt of the haughty and the mighty even unto death on the cross... In fulfilling all meekness, Jesus is blessed, for he has, in his resurrection, inherited the earth and all that dwells therein.” (Thomas Weinandy)



THE UPPER ROOM



VOWS FOR COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP

Juniper Jaques; Nick Juarez; Kevin & Holly McGarry; Nathan Stevenson

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

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 Wonder As I Wander

Text and Tune: Appalachian Carol • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the song "I Wonder As I Wander". It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The score consists of seven staves of music, each with corresponding lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "I When won - der as I wan - der, out
If Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, 'twas
I won - der as I wan - der want - ed for out
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the
in a cows' stall, with wise men and
an - y wee thing; A star in the
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the
Sav - ior, did come for to die. For
far - mers and shep - herds to and all. But
sky, or a bird on the wing; or
Savi - ior, did come for to die. For
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like
high from God's heav - en a star's light did
all of God's an - gels in heav - en to
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like
I; I won - der as I wan - der, out
fall, and the prom - ise of a - ges it
sing, He sure - ly could have had it, 'cause
I; I won - der as I wan - der out
un - der did the sky,
He then did re - call.
un - der was the King!
un - der the sky.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Text & Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582) • Transl. Jane M. Joseph (c. 1917)

Arr. Gustav Holst (c. 1917) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 On this day earth shall ring with the song
His the doom our shall the mirth; when he came

4 chil - dren sing earth, to the Lord, Christ our King,
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth;

7 born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would

10 gave us. I - de - o, o, o,
hide him.

13 I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o,

16 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.

(Chorus)

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, Heaven's king, born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.

(Chorus)

Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger
filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:
All glo-ry be to Je-sus! Up-on a cross my
Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still
o-pen wide: All glo-ry be to Je-sus! And this is
love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to
save! All glo-ry be to Je-sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,
his work of love and mercy done,
the Father's high ascended Son:
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,
because of our Lord's sacrifice,
new life through him, the crucified:
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!
He came to earth our souls to save!
And this is love! And this is grace!
That Christ, our God, did come to save!
All glory be to Jesus.
All glory be to Jesus.

BENEDICTION • 1 Kings 8:57-58

The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers.
May he not leave us or forsake us,
that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways.

~

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

Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" Service • 7pm Friday, December 24.

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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.