



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 2, 2022



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 47:1-2

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: Louis Bourgeois, *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David* (Geneva, 1551) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

3 Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.

5 To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!

7 Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, Son, and Spirit—our Triune God—you are the only true and living God. We know that you alone are good, yet we still turn to false gods for strength, for pleasure, for comfort, for life. But this is death. We confess that we have sinned, both in the evil we have done, and in the good we have done in order to avoid you. We do not know all the ways our hearts are far from you; we have deceived ourselves. We cannot even confess every sin, or know all our false gods, to turn away from them to you. We are utterly at your mercy. O Lord Jesus, be gracious to us. O Father, assure us of your love that makes all things new. O Holy Spirit, dwell in us and have your way with us. We pray in Christ our Savior. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 4:15

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 • 1 Samuel 24:1-13

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...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to reign in justice as our King:

Cause our President and Congress to love justice and mercy. Help our Mayor and City Council to increase the peace of the city.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy the works of the devil:

Restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law. Destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit. Protect us from the temptations, deceit and accusations of the devil.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to bring us peace with God:

Bring peace between nations in your world; help Ascension to live in your peace together; come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to seek and save that which was lost:

Show mercy to our friends who do not yet know you; deepen our faith in the Gospel of grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to destroy death and to bring life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Comfort those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, in injustice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to sympathize with our weaknesses:

Please hear us as we bring you our specific requests. (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you 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.

What Child Is This?

Text: William Dix • Music: *Greensleeves* (16th Century English Carol) • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - them's sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of Mar - y." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16. The final measure of the sixth staff is a whole rest.

What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - them's sweet while
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of
Mar - y.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. 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." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

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)

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 Merciful” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul...”

‘With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
with the purified you deal purely,
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.’” (2 Samuel 22:1, 26-27)

“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Psalm 145:8)

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)

“Peter came up and said to him, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” (Matthew 18:20-21)

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)

“As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13)

“Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.” (James 2:13)



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.”

Cradled In A Manger Meanly

Text: George S. Rowe • Music: Joshua Leavitt, Christmas Lyre 1831

Public Domain

or

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. There are several measures of rests throughout the piece, particularly at the beginning of each line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in lines corresponding to the musical notation, with some lines containing two phrases of text. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

8
Crad-led in a man-ger, mean-ly laid the Son of
Hap-py all who hear the mes-sage of His com-ing
Ev-il things are there be-fore Thee in the heart where
And to those who nev-er list-ened to the mes-sage

4
8
Man His head sleep-ing His first earth-ly slum-ber
from a-bove. Hap-pier still who hail His com-ing
they have fed. Wilt thou pit-i-ful-ly en-ter
of Thy birth, Who have win-ter but no Christ-mas

7
8
where the ox-en had been fed. Hap-py were those
And with prais-es greet His love. Bless-ed Sav-ior,
Son of Man and lay Thy head. En-ter then, Oh
bring-in them Thy peace on Earth. Send to these the

10
8
shep-herds list-ning to the hol-y an-gel's word
Christ most hol-y in a man-ger Thou didn't rest
Christ most hol-y, make a Christ-mas in my heart.
joy-ful tid-ings by all peo-ple in each home.

13
8
hap-py they with-in that sta-ble
Cans't Thou stoop a-gain, yet low-er
Make a heav-en of my man-ger;
Be there heard the Christ-mas an-them:

15
8
wor-ship-ping their in-fant Lord.
And a-bide with-in my breast?
it is heav-en where Thou art.
Peace on Earth good-will to all!

He Is Born (*Il Est Né, Le Divin Enfant*)

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

*He is born, the divine Christ child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.*

Through long ages of the past
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

(Chorus)

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift of God sent down.

(Chorus)

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heav'nly peace.

(Chorus)

Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4th Century), Martin Luther (16th Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed
Mar - y then was found with child,
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,

3
8 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored
passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his

6
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.
Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.

9
8 Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____

15
8 In the high - - - est!

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system starts at measure 8. The second system starts at measure 3. The third system starts at measure 6. The fourth system starts at measure 9 and includes a repeat sign. The fifth system starts at measure 15. The lyrics are: 'Sa - vior of the na - tions come, Not by hu - man pow'r or seed Mar - y then was found with child, Christ laid down his maj - es - ty, show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his all the earth, that our God chose such a birth. Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh. her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace. Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne. Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ In the high - - - est!' The lyrics are aligned with the notes on the staff.

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.
Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.
Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

(Chorus)

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

(Chorus x2)

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 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 • There will be no Sunday School or Sermon Discussion today. (We plan to resume these on Jan. 9.)

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (today) 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!

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).

Men’s Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Jan. 8 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).

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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.