# ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 23, 2022



## CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 64:10

Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!

#### To God Be The Glory

Text: Fanny Crosby • Music: William Doane • Public Domain



## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen! *He is risen indeed!* Let us pray...

## CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 12:15a, 25a

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God... See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

God of grace and truth, show yourself to be our Savior. Our sin is folly and insanity; it is a gloom of deep darkness, and we have lingered there. In our self-centeredness we have spurned your love. We have manipulated and hurt those closest to us. We allow ourselves to believe that our sin is no serious offense, but we have forsaken you and your glorious purpose for our lives. Can it be true that you have not forsaken us? Have you really atoned for our sin by the life and death of your own Son? Grant us confidence in our relationship with you, in spite of all our sin. Make us to know that we belong to you, and that you belong to us, through the sure word of your Gospel and the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 12:22-24

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you!* 

## OFFERING • Exodus 23:19

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your 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 • Genesis 4:1-8**

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." <sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

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...

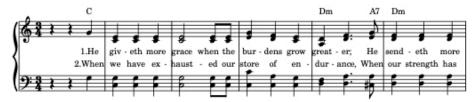
(Elder prays)

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.

#### He Giveth More Grace

Text: Annie Johnson Flint • Music: Hubert Mitchell © 1941; renewed 1969 by Lillenas Publishing











## Only In God (Psalm 62)

Text & Music: John Michael Talbot • © 1980 Birdwing Music / BMI Songs



## **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.

- <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- <sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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 Those Who Are Persecuted For Righteousness' Sake" (Rev. Eric Costa)

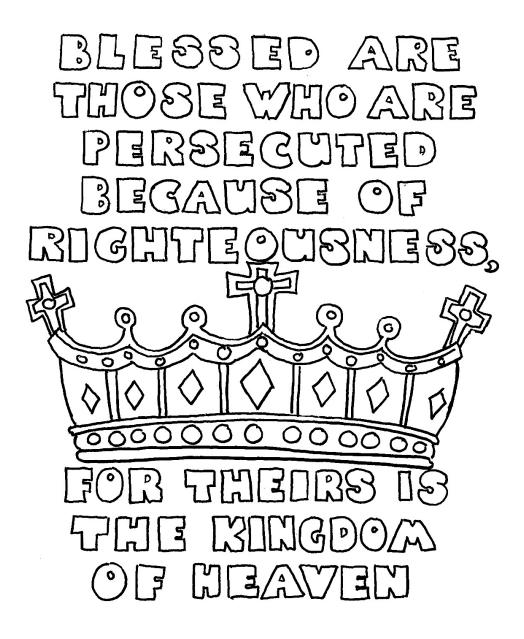
"Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings." (Isaiah 51:7)

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me." (John 15:18-21)

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 3:12)

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name." (1 Peter 4:12-16)

"We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous." (1 John 3:12)





## **CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11**

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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].)

What Wondrous Love Is This

Text: American Folk Hymn • Music: Southern Harmony • Public Domain



#### We Will Feast In The House Of Zion



(Chorus) We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored. "He has done great things!" we will say together. We will feast and weep no more!

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid; for the promised morning— oh, how long? O God of Jacob, be my strength. *(Chorus)* 

Every vow we've broken and betrayed. You are the Faithful one. And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

(Chorus)

#### **BENEDICTION • Psalm 22:26**

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

~

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: Congregational Conversation** • We'll give a 2021 financial report, provide the 2022 budget, and make room for conversation about church matters in general. (There will be no Sunday School or Sermon Discussion today.)

**Men's Study** • 6:30am Tuesdays at the Starbucks at the Sunset Esplanade (2521 SE TV Highway). This group is discussing Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

**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).

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)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

ascensio	npc.org >e
(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)	
Name(s)	<ul> <li>[] I am a visitor.</li> <li>[] I want to know more about being a Christian.</li> <li>[] I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.</li> <li>[] Please send me the email newsletter.</li> </ul>
Email / Phone	[] Please use this info for the photo directory.