



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 30, 2022



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 66:1-2

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: John Hatton • Public Domain

Tenor



Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the
sun does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys
run, His king - dom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and
wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Peter 1:18-19

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Trinity, God of love, our Creator and Redeemer; we are living paradoxes. Even though you made us in your image, we distort the reflection of your glory in our self-love. Even though you grant us every good gift—including the gift of our very selves—we refuse to accept your generosity in our demand to be self-made. In our sin we have violated your reality, and yet we have convinced ourselves that we have done no such thing. In reaching out to seize life apart from you, we have lost everything. But our betrayal could not stop your love. You came into the world in the person of your Son to seek and to save the lost. Save us from ourselves, and help us to find ourselves in the Beloved, forgiven and accepted. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Exodus 35:4-5, 21

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution..." And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service.

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 • Leviticus 2:11-13

“No grain offering that you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey as a food offering to the LORD. ¹² As an offering of firstfruits you may bring them to the LORD, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing aroma. ¹³ You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

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...

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,

We ask for grace and wisdom.

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,

We ask for your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask for your guidance.

For people who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words he taught us, 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.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part".

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

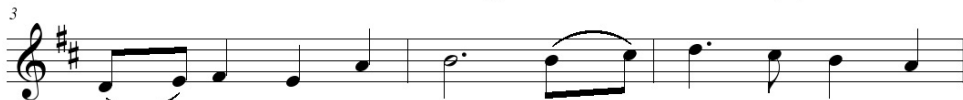
Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

The Son Of God Goes Forth To War

Text and Music: Reginald Heber (1812) • Public Domain



The Son of God goes forth to war, a
The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye could
A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few on
A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, the



king - ly crown to gain; his blood - red ban - ner
pierce be - yond the grave, who saw his Mas - ter
whom the Spir - it came, twelve val - iant saints, their
ma - tron and the maid, a - round the Sav - ior's



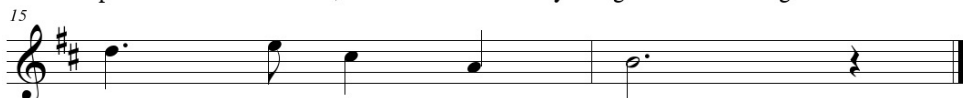
streams a - far; who fol - lows in his train? Who
in the sky, and called on him to save: like
hope they knew, and mocked the cross and flame: they
throne re - jice, in robes of light ar - rayed: they



best can drink his cup of woe, tri - um - phant o - ver
him, with par - don on his tongue in midst of mor - tal
met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, the li - on's gor - y
climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n through per - il, toil, and



pain, who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, he
pain, he prayed for them that did the wrong: who
mane; they bowed their necks to death to feel: who
pain: O God, to us may grace be giv'n to



fol - lows in his train,
fol - lows in his train?
fol - lows in their train?
fol - low in their train.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 5:11-16

“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.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Salt and Light” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” (1 Peter 3:14-17)

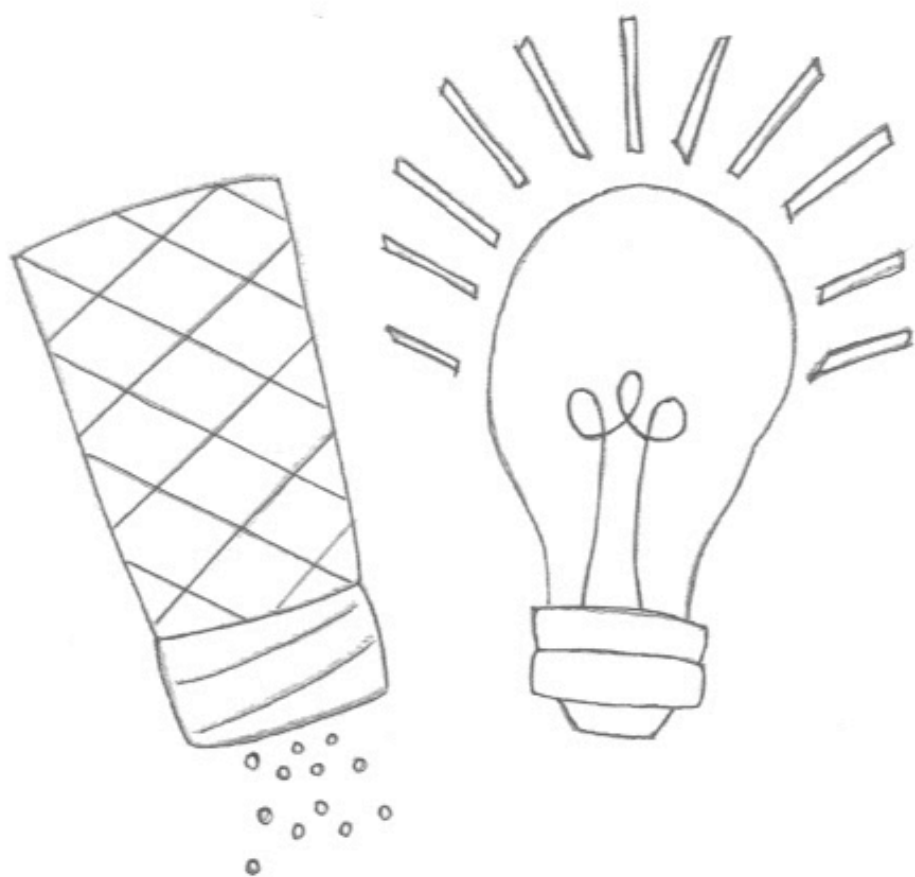
“Nothing is more useful than salt and sunshine.” (Pliny the Elder)

“Salt and light have one thing in common: they give and expend themselves—and thus are the opposite of any and every kind of self-centered religiosity.” (Helmut Thielicke)

“It is only those who are involved with other people who will be seen to be different and so attract persecution. Salt is of no use as long as it stays in the salt cellar. Light is of no use under a bowl. It is the town conspicuously sited on the hill which people notice. And the outcome of distinctive discipleship is intended to be that other people will notice, and, though sometimes they may respond with cynicism and persecution, ultimately the light will have its effect and they will recognize and acknowledge the goodness of the God who is its source. Disciples, therefore, must be both distinctive and involved. Neither the indistinguishably assimilated nor the inaccessible hermit will fulfill the mandate of these challenging verses.” (R. T. France)

“Any community of Jesus which wants to be invisible is no longer a community that follows him.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

“The world will undoubtedly persecute the church; yet it is the church’s calling to serve this persecuting world.” (John Stott)





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].)

* 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.”

A Hymn To God The Father

A Poem by John Donne • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Wilt Thou for - give that sin where I be - gun, which
5 was my sin, though it were done be - fore? Wilt Thou for -
10 give that sin through which I run, and do run still, though
15 still I do de - plore? When Thou hast
19 done, — Thou hast not done, — for I have more, — I have
25 more. When Thou hast done, — Thou hast not done,
30 — for I have more, — I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
a year or two, but wallow'd in a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more, I have more. (2x)

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
but swear by thyself, that at my death thy sun
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.

And, having done that, thou hast done.
I fear no more. I fear no more. (2x)

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
4 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
13 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

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).

Presbytery • The elders of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery will meet this Thursday and Friday in Bremerton, WA. Pray for our faithfulness and love as we look to serve one another and the churches.

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Feb. 6) 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 Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Feb. 12 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).

Baby Shower • After Worship on Sun., Feb. 20.

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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.