



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 27, 2022



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-33

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

As We Walk Along Beside You

Text: Michael A. Perry (Luke 24) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



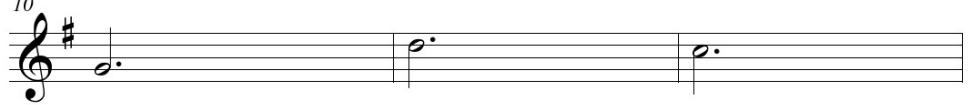
As we walk a - long be - side you and we hear you
As we ask that you stay with us, and we watch what
As we reach for you be - liev - ing and we go to



4 speak of mer - cy then it seems our hearts are burn - ing
you are do - ing then our eyes be - gin to o - pen,
love and serve you, then our lives will be pro - claim - ing,



7 for we find you in the shar - ing of _____ the
for we see you in the break - ing of _____ the
that we know you in your ris - ing from _____ the



10 word. A - - - le - - -
bread. _____
dead. _____



13 lu _____ ia. _____ A - -



16 le - - - lu - ia. _____

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Revelation 1:17b-18

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

God, you are majestic in your freedom to love. You made us to share this glory with you, but we doubted you and became enslaved to sin. Left to ourselves, we are spiritually blind, deaf, and lame; we cannot change or help ourselves; we are dead to you in our rebellion. We certainly do not deserve your kindness. Yet you remain free to love the unlovely, which is your glory. Take pity on us, forgive us, and make us alive to you. Restore us to true freedom in communion with you. Your declaration of mercy in Christ Jesus the Lord is our only hope and prayer. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to God his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Proverbs 3:9–10

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

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 86:8-13

- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

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...

Most gracious God, who has promised to reveal his glory among all nations,
hear us as we pray for your church. Bless all the ministers of your word and sacraments and unite all Christians in the bonds of holy faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of our fathers, who has promised to take care of our every need,
give us peaceful times and fruitful seasons. Grant all in authority over us wisdom and strength to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father, comfort all who believe the good news of your grace.
We pray for all who are distressed: the poor, the homeless, the sick, the bereaved, and those afflicted in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music

Tenor

8 A - bide with me; — fastfallsthe e - ven -
3 Thou on my head,in — ear - ly youth didst
6 tide; The dark - ness deepens; Lordwith me a -
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -
9 bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Tenor' and has a '8' below it. The second staff has a '3' below it, the third a '6', and the fourth a '9'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

You Are Before Me, Lord

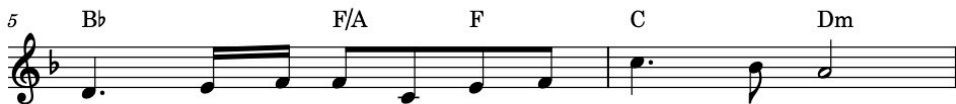
Text: Psalm 139, Ian Pitt-Watson • Music: Trad. Scottish Melody • Public Domain



1.You are be - fore me, Lord, You are be - hind,
2.Then from Your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
3.If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
4.If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
5.Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;



And o - ver me You have spread out Your hand;
And from Your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
And I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
Try me, O God, my mind and spir - it try;



Such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
If I as - cend to heav - en You are there,
Your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
Sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to You:
Keep me from an - y path that gives You pain,



Too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
And still are with me if in hell I lie.
And Your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
The night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
And lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Truthfulness” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD...” (Genesis 22:16; cf. Isaiah 45:23)

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7, The Third Commandment)

“You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:12)

“If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.” (Numbers 30:2)

“It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.” (Matthew 23:16-22)

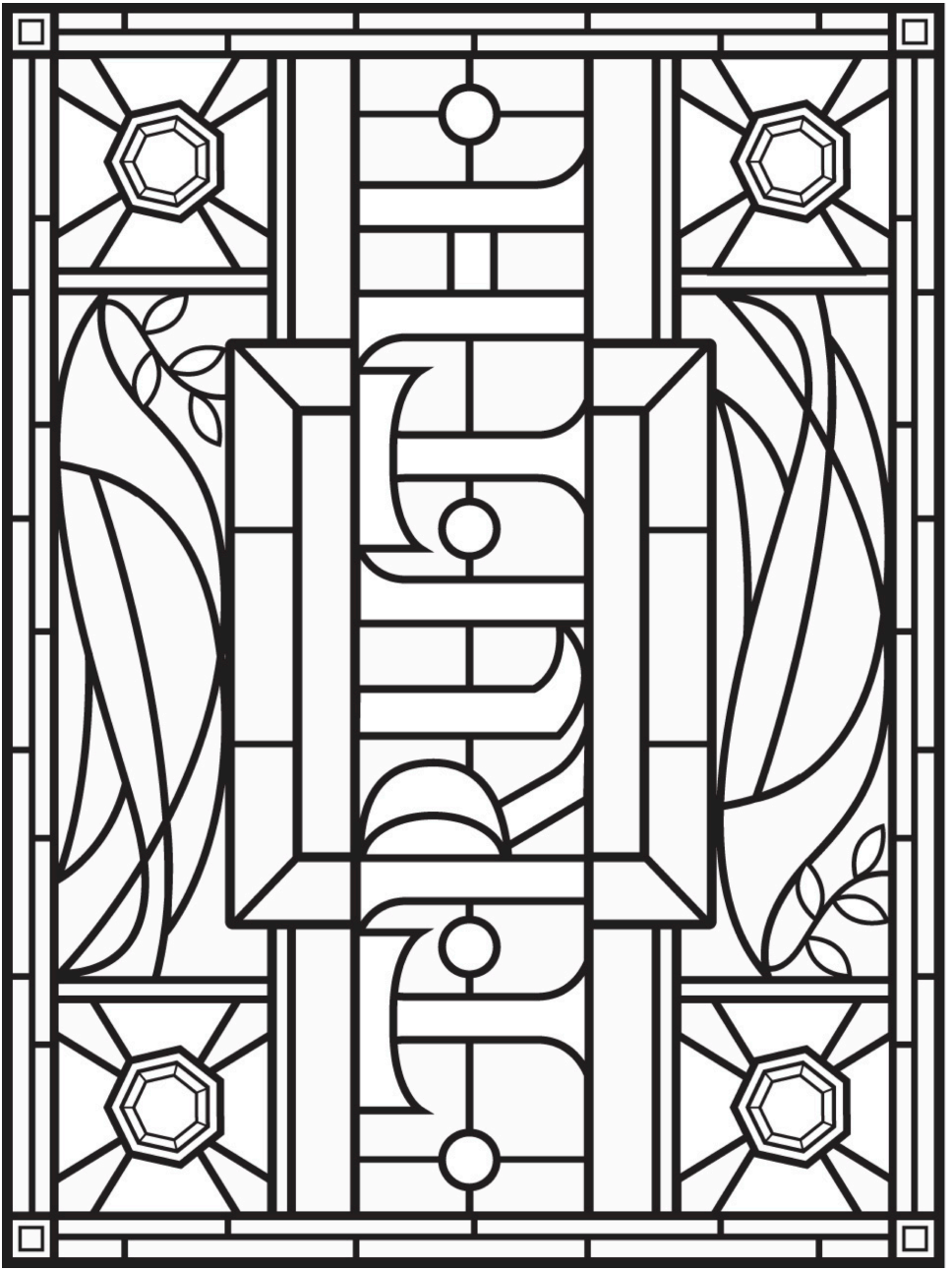
“God is my witness...” (Romans 1:9; Philippians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:5)

“What is an oath? It is an appeal made to God in public, calling upon him to witness a statement made in connection with an event or fact, past, present or future. By means of the oath, men invoke the omniscient deity to avenge the truth... The very existence of oaths is a proof that there are such things as lies...”

“It is only because we follow Jesus that we can be genuinely truthful, for then he reveals to us our sin upon the cross. The cross is God’s truth about us, and therefore it is the only power which can make us truthful. When we know the cross, we are no longer afraid of the truth...”

“Untruthfulness destroys fellowship, but truth cuts false fellowship to pieces and establishes genuine brotherhood.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

“Our speech always takes place in the presence of God... To learn to speak truthfully to one another requires that we learn to speak truthfully to God, that is, we must learn to pray.” (Stanley Hauerwas)





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.”

Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

Text: Charles Spurgeon

Music: Adapted from a Gregorian Chant by Lowell Mason (*Hamburg*)

Public Domain



A - midst us our Be - love - ed ___ stands,
What food lux - u - rious ___ loads the ___ board,
If now with eyes de - filed and ___ dim,
O glor - ious Bride - groom ___ of our ___ hearts,



and bids us view His ___ pierc - ed ___ hands;
when at His ta - ble ___ sits the ___ Lord!
we see the signs, but ___ see not ___ Him;
your pre - sent smile a ___ heav'n im - parts!



points to the wound - ed ___ feet and ___ side,
The wine how rich, the ___ bread how ___ sweet,
O may His love the ___ scales dis - place,
O lift the veil, if ___ veil there ___ be,



blest em - blems of the Cru - ci ___ fied.
when Je - sus deigns the guests to ___ meet!
and bid us see Him face to ___ face!
let ev - ery saint your glor - y ___ see!

O Lord, By Grace Delivered

Text: Psalm 30 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

The musical score is written for a Tenor voice in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 3, 6, 10, 13, 16, 21, and 27. The lyrics are: O Lord, by grace de - liv - ered, I In pros - p'rous days I boast - ed: un - now with songs ex - tol; my foes you have not moved I shall re - main; for Lord, by your good suf - fered to glo - ry o'er my fall. O Lord, my God, I fa - vor my cause you did main - tain; I soon was sor - ley sought you, and you did heal and save; - you, trou - bled, for you did hide your face; I Lord, from death did ran - som and keep me from the cried to you Je - ho - vah, I sought Je - ho - vah's grave. O Lord, by grace de - li - - vered! - I grace. now with songs ex - tol! His ho - ly name re - mem - ber! - You saints, Je - ho - vah praise!

What profit if I perish, if life you do not spare?
Shall dust repeat your praises, shall it your truth declare?

O Lord, on me have mercy, and my petition hear;
that you may be my helper, in mercy, Lord, appear.

(Chorus)

My grief is turned to gladness, to you my thanks I raise,
who has removed my sorrow and girded me with praise;
and now, no longer silent, my heart your praise will sing;

O Lord, my God forever, my thanks to you I bring.

(Chorus)

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 • 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.

Photo Directory Pictures & Information • If you would like a picture taken for our church's forthcoming photo directory, see Bill Duncan after Worship sometime in the next few weeks. If you need your contact information included or updated, email Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

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).

Men's Breakfast • 7:30am Sat., Mar. 5 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 (Mar. 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!

Summer Campout • Fri. - Sun., July 29-31, at South Beach State Park (near Newport). To register, contact Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@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.