



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • MARCH 13, 2022



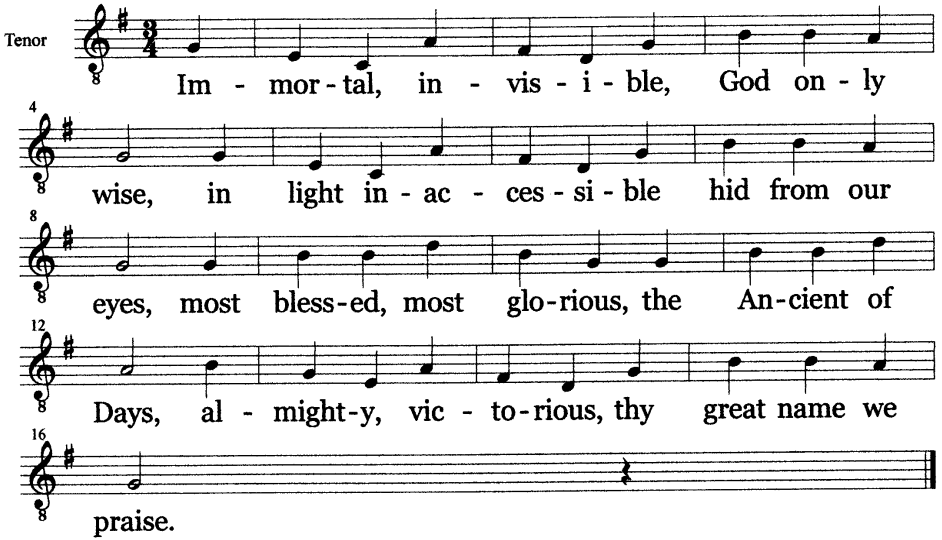
**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 81:1**

Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

# Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith • Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly  
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our  
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of  
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we  
praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Genesis 6:5**

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, in thought and word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through our ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Genesis 15:6**

Abraham believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Matthew 6:2-4**

“When you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

## **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 • Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, <sup>8</sup> but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. <sup>9</sup> Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. <sup>10</sup> You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. <sup>11</sup> For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"

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 leads in prayer)

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.*

# Thy Mercy, My God

Lyrics: John Stoker • Music: Sandra McCracken

© 2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP)



1. Thy mer - cy, my\_ God, is the theme of my song, the  
out thy sweet mer - cy I could\_ not live here;  
mer - cy is\_ more than a match for my heart which  
fath - er of\_ mer - cies thy good - ness I own and the



joy of my\_ heart and the boast of my tongue. Thy free grace a - lone from the first  
Sin would re - duce me to ut - ter des - pair; but through thy free good - ness my spir  
won - ders to\_ feel its own hard - ness de - part; - dis - solved - by thy good - ness - I fall  
cov - e - nant love of thy cruc - i - fied son; all praise to the spi - rit whose whis



— to the last hath won my af - fec - tions and bound\_ my soul fast.  
- its re - vive and he that first made me still keeps\_ me a - live.  
— to the ground and weep for the praise of the mer - cy I've found.  
- per di - vine seals mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness



2. With mine. All praise to the spir - it whose whis - per di - vine  
3. Thy  
4. Great



— seals mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness mine!

# Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Text and Music: based on the *Te Deum*, ca. 4<sup>th</sup> c. • arr. Chip Ueltschey



Ho - ly God, we praise your name;  
Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn  
Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train  
Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son,



Lord of all, we bow be - fore you;  
an - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;  
join your sa - cred name to hal - low;  
Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name you;



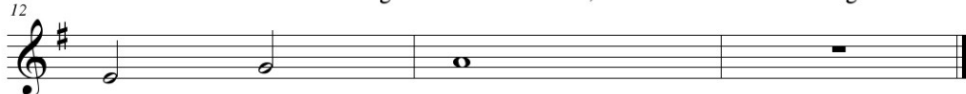
all on earth your scep - ter claim,  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim  
proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
while in es - sence on - ly One,



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you.  
in un - ceas - ing chor - us prais - ing,  
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low;  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you,



In - fi - nite your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing  
fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
and from morn to set of sun, through the church the  
and a - dor - ing bend the knee, while we sing this



is your reign.  
ho - ly Lord."  
song goes on.  
mys - ter - y.

## **GOSPEL READING • Matthew 6:1-4**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

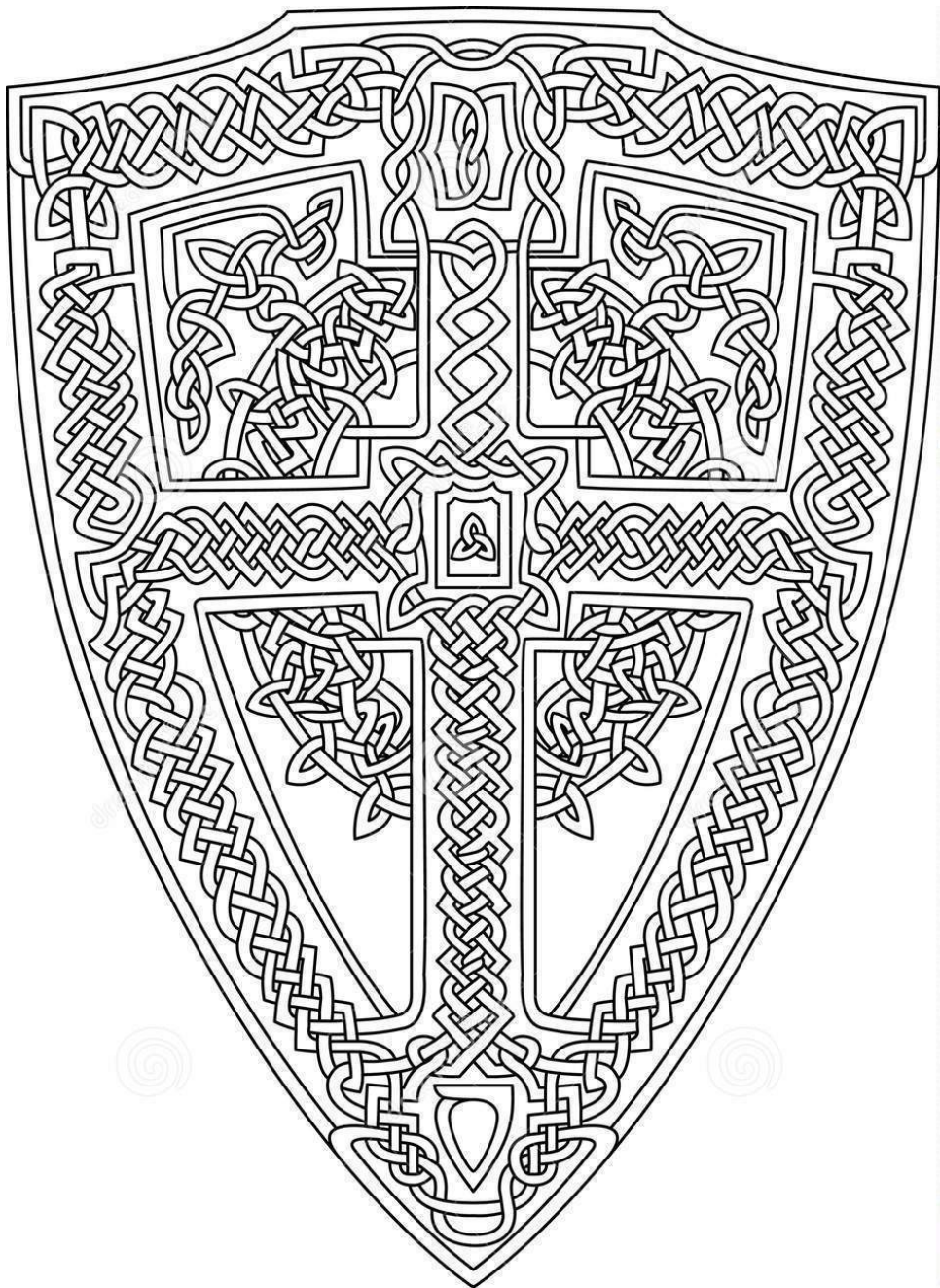
## **SERMON • “Secret Almsgiving And Its Reward” (Rev. Eric Costa)**

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;  
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.  
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:24-25)

“Nothing is quite so fallacious as to think of sin only in terms of actions; and as long as we think of sin only in terms of things actually done, we fail to understand it. The essence of the biblical teaching on sin is that it is essentially a disposition. It is a state of heart.” (David Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

“To attempt to live in accord with righteousness... but out of motives eager for men’s applause is to prostitute that righteousness.” (D. A. Carson)

“We have to take heed that we do not take heed of our own righteousness... Genuine love is always self-forgetful in the true sense of the word. But if we are to have it, our old man must die with all his virtues and qualities, and this can only be done where the disciple forgets self and clings solely to Christ.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)







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].)

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\* 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.”

# Father, Remember Me

Text: Psalm 103 • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 The ten - der love a fath - er has for all  
3 The Lord re - mem - bers we are dust, and all  
8 his children dear, Such love the Lord be - stows  
6 our frail - ty knows; Man's days are like the ten -  
8 on them who wor - ship Him in fear. This is my  
9 - der grass, and as the flow'r he grows.  
8 song! Fath - er re - mem - ber me, When You come,  
13 Lord - re - mem - ber me!

Unchanging is the love of God, from age to age the same,  
displayed to all who do his will and reverence in his name.

*(Chorus)*

Those who his gracious cov'nant keep the Lord will ever bless;  
their children's children shall rejoice to see his righteousness.

*(Chorus)*

# God Is The Strength Of My Heart

Text: Psalm 73 (1912 Psalter) • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8  
God-is good to His peo - ple, His mer-cy to me,  
5  
8  
is al-ways un - fail - ing, though I could not see.  
9  
8  
And when my faith fal - tered, I en-vied the proud.  
13  
8  
In doubt and dis - qui - et my spir - it was bowed.  
17  
8  
Trust-in the Lord God, He is un-fail - ing,  
21  
8  
He is the strength of my heart ev - er more!  
the good and the pure.

The wicked all prosper, and firm is their health;  
they suffer no pangs as they gather their wealth.  
They never are troubled with sickness or pain,  
but boast to all others of ill-gotten gain.

*(Chorus)*

They question God's knowledge and boldly defy  
the might and the justice of God the Most High.  
The wicked grow wealthy, have comfort and peace,  
while I, daily chastened, see troubles increase.

*(Chorus)*

In doubt and temptation, I rest Lord in you;  
my hand is in your hand, whatever I do.  
You always are with me; you guide with your word,  
and soon into glory will take me, O Lord.

*(Chorus)*

Whom have I, O Savior, in heaven but you?  
On earth for none other I long but for you.  
My flesh and my heart may be weakened and sore,  
but God is the strength of my heart evermore.

*(Chorus)*

## BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

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**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jerilee.costa@gmail.com)).

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

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### PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))  
Northwest Church Planting Network ([nwcpcnetwork.com](http://nwcpcnetwork.com))  
Rev. Drew Burdette, Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org)) at Oregon State  
Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))  
Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge ([serge.org](http://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.