



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 18, 2022


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Isaiah 42:10a

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth.

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The image shows a musical score for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-". The second staff continues: "ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him". The third staff continues: "room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And". The fourth staff continues: "heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and". The fifth staff continues: "na - ture sing." and ends with a double bar line.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Acts 2:38

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

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 • Acts 4:12

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Luke 6:38

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to 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 • Ezekiel 2:1 – 3:11

He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.”

² And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.

⁴ The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶ And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. ⁷ And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.

⁸ “But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹ And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

^{3:1} And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴ And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵ For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel—⁶ not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸ Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹ Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰ Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹ And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

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...

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

And we pray as our Savior taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Text: Edward Mote • Music: William Bradbury • Public Domain



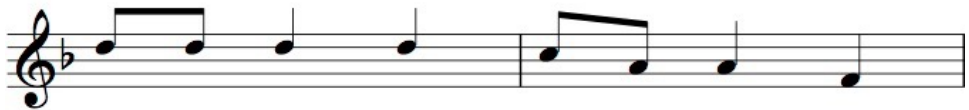
1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-
3 His oath, his co-ve-nant, his blood, sup-port me in the
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



right eous-ness: I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and stor-my gale, my
whelm ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
him be found: dressed in his right eous-ness a-lone, fault-



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the so-lid
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be-fore the throne.



Rock, I stand: all o-ther ground is



sin-king sand; all o-ther ground is sin-king sand.

Thy Mercy, My God

Lyrics: John Stoker • Music: Sandra McCracken

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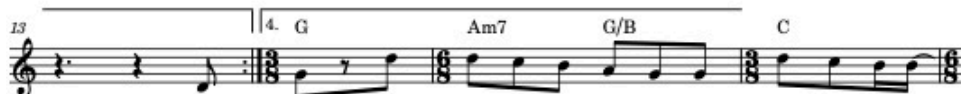
1. Thy mer - cy, my_ God, is the theme of my song, the
out thy sweet mer - cy I could_ not live here;
mer - cy is_ more than a match for my heart which
fath - er of_ mer - cies thy good - ness I own and the



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!

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 10:16-33

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Sheep in the Midst of Wolves” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Being a Christian means participating in the shame of Jesus before his persecutors...”

“The affliction of the Christian is a reaction against the Lord of the Christian; the Christian attracts the opposition of the world because the Christian is a bearer of the name of Christ. We stand in his company; we are in his fellowship; our *being with him* is the determining factor of our existence. And so around us there gathers that resistance which also marked him out and finally put him away... The disciples are sent out, charged by the Lord, given authority and commanded not to remain silent, but to speak about the gospel. And speaking the gospel means getting caught up in the unyielding reality of human rejection of God.” (John Webster)

“In a world hostile to God, a Christian’s life is one of conflict... All who confess the name of Christ are called to a path which is no longer one of safety.” (Heinrich Vogel)

“Those who are still afraid of men have no fear of God, and those who have fear of God have ceased to be afraid of men.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him. 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].)

I Hunger And I Thirst

Text: John S. B. Monsell, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl

Used by Permission

Tenor

I hun - ger and I thirst;
Thou bruised and bro - ken Bread,
Thou true life - giv - ing Vine,
Rough paths my feet have trod,
Je - sus my man - na be; ye liv - ing wa - ters,
my life - long needs sup - ply; as liv - ing souls are
let me Thy sweet - ness prove; re - new my life with
since first their course be - gan; feed me, thou Bread of
burst, out of the rock for me. I
fed, O feed me or I die. I
Thine, re - fresh my soul with love. I
God, help me thou Son of Man. I
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
Je - sus Christ the bread of
life, I hun - ger for you Lord!

For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before;
O living waters rise within me evermore.
I hunger and I thirst, Jesus my manna be!

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!

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.

~

After Worship Today • From 11:40 to 12:15, children will meet for Sunday School, and adults are welcome to join the Sermon Discussion in the Fellowship Hall.

Home Group • Sun., Sept. 25, after Worship and Sunday School, at the Stevenson home (5037 NE Stable Ct., Hillsboro 97124). We'll plan to enjoy a potluck lunch together (please bring something to share). Then we'll discuss chapter 7 of Dane Ortlund's book, *Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners*.

Men's Study • 6:30am Wednesdays at the Sauvie Island Coffee Company (AKA Edge Coffee): 14647 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton. This group is discussing *The Drama of Scripture*, by C. Bartholomew and M. Goheen.

Women's Study • 7pm Wednesdays. Locations vary - contact Jerilee (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Men's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Oct. 7-9, in Lincoln City. The cost will be \$75 per person. To register, and to help arrange a meal, coordinate with Brian Aznoe (baznoe@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat • Fri. - Sun., Nov. 4-6, in Lincoln City. The cost will be \$75 per person. To register, and to help arrange a meal, coordinate with Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).

Shepherding Meetings • The elders want to check in with the members of the church. We like to use these questions to kickstart our conversations: 1) *What are you thankful for?* 2) *Where are you seeing the grace of God at work in your life?* 3) *How can we as elders (or the deacons) serve you?*

We're available for these meetings on a regular basis on the second Sunday of each month for lunch or dinner. To schedule a shepherding meeting with us on one of these Sundays, or during some other time, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)

Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com)

Northwest Church Planting Network (nwcpcnetwork.com)

Reformed University Fellowship (ruf.org)

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF (omf.org/asia/taiwan)

Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge (serge.org)

Love INC, Hillsboro (loveincgreaterhillsboro.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.