



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • NOVEMBER 27, 2022
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • John 4:23–24

“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him Christ the Lord." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20.

O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri -
um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to
Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him
born the King of an - gels; O
come let us a - dore him, O come let us a -
dore him, O come let us a - dore him
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
(Chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:19-20

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, Son, and Spirit—our Triune God—you are the only true and living God. We know that you alone are good, yet we still turn to false gods for strength, for pleasure, for comfort, for life. But this is death. We confess that we have sinned, both in the evil we have done, and in the good we have done in order to avoid you. We do not know all the ways our hearts are far from you; we have deceived ourselves. We cannot even confess every sin, or know all our false gods, to turn away from them to you. We are utterly at your mercy. O Lord Jesus, be gracious to us. O Father, assure us of your love that makes all things new. O Holy Spirit, dwell in us and have your way with us. We pray in Christ our Savior. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:21-22

You, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

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...

Our Father in Heaven, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all; how will you not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

We thank you for your daily provision for our physical needs. We thank you for your care for our souls. We thank you for your mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus, You rule over all things for the sake of your Church. You are at the right hand of God interceding for us constantly. Nothing can separate us from your love.

Increase the peace and purity and unity of this congregation. Strengthen the church of Christ in our city. Protect and stand with our brothers and sisters everywhere who are being persecuted for their faith.

Our Savior, you invite the weary and burdened to come to you and find rest. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. You are gentle and humble in heart.

Heal those who are sick. Give your grace and peace to those facing imminent death and to those who care for them. Comfort those who are grieving. Sit closely with those who are lonely. Provide for those who are seeking work. Free those who are struggling with enslaving sins.

Our great God, we hear your promise that the knowledge of your glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Increase the spread of the Gospel in and through our city, to the world. We ask you to extend your mercy to our friends and loved ones.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

As With Gladness Men Of Old

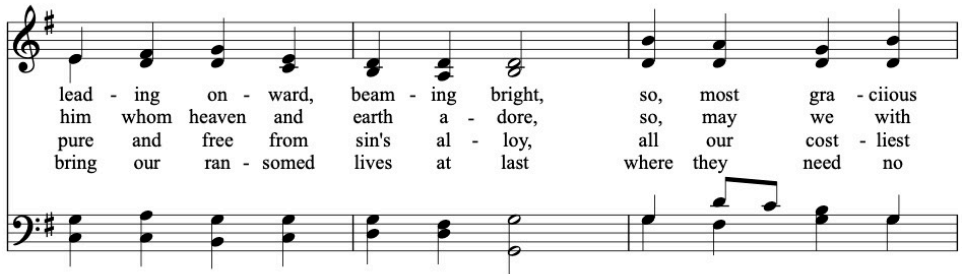
Text: William Chatterton Dix • Music: Conrad Kocher • Public Domain



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the



star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,



lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious
him whom heaven and earth a - dore, so, may we with
pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest
bring our ran - somed lives at last where they need no



Lord, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
wil - ling feet e - ver seek the mer - cy seat.
trea - sures bring, Christ, to you, our heaven - ly King.
star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413 • Music: *Divinum Mysterium*, 11th c.



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the
This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of
O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel
3 Christ to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O



worlds be - gan to be. he is Al - pha and O - me -
Vir - gin, full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv -
old with one ac - cord, Whom the Scrip - tures of the proph -
hosts, his prais - es sing; All do - min - ions, bow be - fore
6 Ho - ly Ghost, to thee, Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiv -



ga, he the Source, the End - ing he. Of the
ing bore the Sav - ior of our race; and the
ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he
him and ex - tol our God and King; Let no
9 ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be, Ho - nor,



things that are that have - been, and that
babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re -
shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; Let cre -
tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev' - ry
12 glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e -



fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ever - more!
vealed his sa - red face, ev - er - more and ever - more!
a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ever - more!
voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ever - more!
ter - nal vic - tor - y, ev - er - more and ever - more!

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 13

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- 1 How long, O Yahweh*? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3 Consider and answer me, O Yahweh my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to Yahweh,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "How Long, O Yahweh?" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Where do you find more miserable, more wretched, more depressing words than in the Psalms of lamentation? There you see into the heart of all the saints as into death, even as into hell."

— Martin Luther

"The Psalter gives us ample instruction in how to come before God in a proper way, bearing the frequent suffering which this world brings upon us. Serious illness and severe loneliness before God and men, threat, persecution, imprisonment, and whatever conceivable peril there is on earth are known by the Psalms. They do not deny it or try to deceive us about it with pious words. They allow it to stand as a severe attack on the faith..."

"There is in the Psalms no quick and easy resignation to suffering. There is always struggle, anxiety, doubt... God's behavior is too difficult to grasp. But even in the deepest hopelessness God alone remains the one addressed... [The distressed one] sets out to do battle against God for God."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

* This translation differs from the ESV, which translates God's name, Yahweh, as "LORD" with small caps.



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60

How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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].)

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

We Three Kings

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins • Public Domain



We three kings of O - ri - ent are:
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain:
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:
Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume:
Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise:



Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far;
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom -
King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing,
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
Al - le - lu ia, Al - le - lu ia!



Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
O - ver us all to reign.
Wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Earth to heav'n re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

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.

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 • Join us around 11:40 for Sunday School (kids) and Sermon Discussion (adults).

Men's Study • 6:30am Wednesdays. Contact: Rob Stevenson (robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com).

"Ascension Young Adults" (AYA) • 6:30pm - 8pm Wednesdays. 6th through 12th graders are encouraged to come, and to invite their friends. Contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

Women's Study • 7pm Thursdays. Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@gmail.com).

Men's Breakfast • We'll skip our December meeting, and plan to meet again on Sat., Jan. 7.

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Dec. 4) 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!

Drum Circle • Kids, bring your percussion instruments next Sunday for Drum Circle after Worship!

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 third 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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ascensionpc.org



(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.