



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 11, 2022  
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP • John 6:40**

“This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

1 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born King:  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, — Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord:  
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! — Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, — off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:  
Light and life to all he brings, — risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —  
veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; — hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, —  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —

with th'an - ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, — our Im - ma - nu - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us se - cond birth.

(Chorus)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • 1 Timothy 1:5**

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Holy Trinity, God of love, glorious Creator and Lord, you made us in your image for relationships of holy love. But we have loved ourselves. You have generously given us every good gift, including the gift of our very selves. But we have pretended to be self-made. We have violated our relationship with you while convincing ourselves that there is nothing wrong with us. In reaching out to seize life apart from you, we have lost everything. We are undone. 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, accepted, and renewed in your image. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • 1 Timothy 1:15**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Exodus 23:19**

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of Yahweh<sup>1</sup> your 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.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The ESV translates God's personal name, Yahweh, as "the LORD" (small caps).

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • James 2:1-5

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup> For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

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 we join together with the Lord in the prayer he taught us:

*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.*

# It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears • Music: Richard S. Willis • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of 19 measures. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score ends with a fermata over the final note of measure 19.

It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with  
And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose  
glo - rious song of old, from  
peace - ful wings un - furled, and  
form are bend - ing low, who  
an - gels bend - ing near the earth to  
still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er  
toil a - long the climb - ing way with  
touch their harps of gold: "Peace  
all the wea - ry world: A -  
pain - ful steps and slow, Look  
on the earth good will to men, from  
bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
now! For glad and gold - en hours come  
heav - en's all - gra - cious King;" the  
bend - on hov - 'ring wing, and  
swift - ly on the wing: O  
world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels  
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bles - sed an - gels  
rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels

19  
sing.  
sing.  
sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## Good Christian Men Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale • Music: German Melody • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with  
3  
8 heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say:  
7  
8 Je - sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be -  
10  
8 fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.  
13  
8 Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 82

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
- 2 “How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 I said, “You are gods,  
sons of the Most High, all of you;
- 7 nevertheless, like Adam<sup>1</sup> you shall die,  
and fall like any prince.”
- 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth;  
for you shall inherit all the nations!

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • “Injustice” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit. Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.” (Exodus 23:6-8)

“Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker,  
but he who is generous to the needy honors him.” (Proverbs 14:31)

“Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?” (John 10:34-36)

“Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.” (Revelation 2:4)

“God is intensely concerned for the weak, the orphaned, the poor, and the powerless... God is committed to justice because, remarkably, he identifies with the poor. To oppress the poor is to disdain him (Proverbs 14:31). Only in Jesus Christ do we learn just how far God would go to identify with the poor and oppressed. He became a poor human being who died on the cross, a victim of human injustice.” (Timothy Keller)

---

<sup>1</sup> ESV: “men.”



THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11**

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

*I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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].)

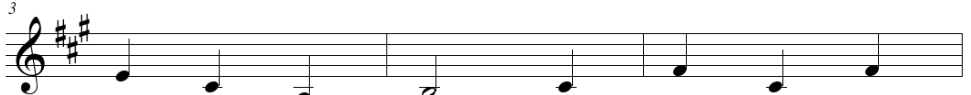


# I Wonder As I Wander

Text and Tune: Appalachian Carol • Public Domain



I When won - der as I wan - der out  
If Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, 'twas  
I won - der as I wan - der for out



un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the  
in a cows' stall, with wise men and  
an - y wee thing; A star in the  
un - der the sky, how Je - sus, the



Sav - ior, did come for to die. For  
far - mers and shep - herds to and all. But  
sky, or a bird on the wing; or  
Savi - ior, did come for to die. For



poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like  
high from God's heav - en a star's light did  
all of God's an - gels in heav - en to  
poor, or - nery peo - ple like you and like



I; I won - der as I wan - der, out  
fall, and the prom - ise of a - ges it  
sing, He sure - ly could have had it, 'cause  
I; I won - der as I wan - der out



un - der did the sky,  
then did re - call.  
He was the King!  
un - der the sky.

# On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Text & Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582) • Transl. Jane M. Joseph (c. 1917)

Arr. Gustav Holst (c. 1917) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
His the doom our the mirth; when he came

4 chil - dren sing earth, to the Lord, Christ our King,  
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth;

7 born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would

10 gave us. I - de - o, o, o,  
hide him.

13 I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o,

16 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

*(Chorus)*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, Heaven's king, born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*(Chorus)*

# Within A Crib My Savior Lay

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Matthew H. Curl • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

With-in a crib my Sav-ior lay, a woo-den man-ger  
filled with hay, come down for love on Christ-mas day:  
All glo - ry be to Je - sus! Up-on a cross my  
Sav-ior died, to ran-som sin-ners, cru-ci-fied, His lov-ing arms still  
o-pen wide: All glo - ry be to Je - sus! And this is  
love! And this is grace! He came to earth our souls to  
save! All glo - ry be to Je - sus!

A victor's crown my Savior won,  
his work of love and mercy done,  
the Father's high ascended Son:  
all glory be to Jesus!

And soon to glory we will rise,  
because of our Lord's sacrifice,  
new life through him, the crucified:  
All glory be to Jesus!

And this is love! And this is grace!  
He came to earth our souls to save!  
And this is love! And this is grace!  
That Christ, our God, did come to save!  
All glory be to Jesus.  
All glory be to Jesus.

# BENEDICTION • Revelation 22:20-21 (*responsive*)

“Surely I am coming soon.”

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

~

**After Worship Today** • There will be no Sunday School or Sermon discussion today.

**Advent Ministerial Relief Offering** • Each Advent season we participate in our denomination's Ministerial Relief Fund offering. This is a practical way to care for widows, retired ministers, and other servants of the church who are in financial distress. If you would like to help others in this way, please visit [genevabenefits.org/relief-fund/lookafter/](http://genevabenefits.org/relief-fund/lookafter/).

**Finance Update** • The church has about \$48k in the bank. Over the course of the year so far we have run a deficit of roughly \$15k. Your generosity supports ministries and missionaries locally, regionally, and globally. Thank you.

**Men's Study** • 6:30am Wednesdays. Contact: Rob Stevenson ([robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fiby2020@gmail.com)).

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

**Christmas Eve Service** • 7pm Sat., Dec. 24 at the Stevensons' home (5037 NE Stable Ct., Hillsboro).

**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](mailto:rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)).

•

## PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America ([pcanet.org](http://pcanet.org))

Our Presbytery ([pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com](http://pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com))

Northwest Church Planting Network ([nwcpcnetwork.com](http://nwcpcnetwork.com))

Reformed University Fellowship ([ruf.org](http://ruf.org))

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))

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

[ascensionpc.org](http://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.