



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 18, 2022
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • John 11:25-26

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: Louis Bourgeois, *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David* (Geneva, 1551) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

3 Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.

5 To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!

7 Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 3:12-13

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Creator God, you have given us everything we have, including our very selves. Yet we have refused to receive what we have as gifts, because we have rejected you as the Giver. We have been ungrateful. We have boasted as if we were self-made and self-sufficient. We have hoarded our wealth, not believing in your future generosity. We have gratified ourselves and consumed as much as we can without sharing. We have withheld ourselves from you and others, because we do not delight in giving like you do. But you live forever as Giver, Gift, and Given, and you have even given yourself to us. In your mercy, forgive us. In your grace, fill us with your Gift-life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 2:17

He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

OFFERING • Exodus 35:4-5, 21

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that Yahweh¹ has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to Yahweh. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring Yahweh's contribution..." And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought Yahweh's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service.

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 Thessalonians 5:9-10

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as the King of kings and the Lord of lords:

We pray for our leaders, near and far, that they might love justice and mercy; we pray for our local leaders, that they might promote the peace of the city.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death in triumph over evil and oppression:

We ask you to restrain the wickedness in our city by your Law; we ask you to destroy the wickedness in our own hearts by your Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as the Prince of peace:

We pray for peace between nations in your world; we pray that this congregation might live in your peace together; we ask you to come again soon to fully establish your peace on earth.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death to reconcile us to God:

We pray for our friends who do not yet know you; we pray for the deepening of our faith in the Gospel of grace.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death to reveal life and immortality through the gospel:

We pray for comfort for those who are suffering in grief, in poverty, in sickness, and in injustice.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you rose from death as our sympathetic High Priest:

Please hear us as we bring you our requests. (Silent prayer)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray now in the words you 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.

What Child Is This?

Text: William Dix • Music: *Greensleeves* (16th Century English Carol) • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of Mar - y." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16. The final measure of the sixth staff is a whole rest.

What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of
Mar - y.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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 bar numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

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)

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 90

A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD.

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- 7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Return, O Yahweh! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "Wrath" (Rev. Eric Costa)



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].)

Cradled In A Manger Meanly

Text: George S. Rowe • Music: Joshua Leavitt, Christmas Lyre 1831 • Public Domain

or

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are as follows:

8
Crad-led in a man-ger, mean-ly laid the Son of _____
Hap-py all who hear the mes-sage of His com-ing _____
Ev-il things are there be-fore _____ Thee in the heart where _____
And to those who nev-er list-ened to the mes-sage _____

4
8
Man His head sleep-ing His first earth-ly slum-ber
from a bove. Hap-pier still who -hail His com-ing
they have fed. Wilt thou pit-i-ful-ly en-ter
of Thy birth, Who have win-ter but no Christ-mas

7
8
where the ox-en had been fed. Hap-py were those
And with prais-es greet His love. Bless-ed Sav-ior,
Son of Man and lay Thy head. En-ter then, Oh
bring-in them Thy peace on Earth. Send to these the

10
8
shep-herds list-ning to the hol-y an-gel's word
Christ most hol-y in a man-ger Thou dids't rest
Christ most hol-y, make a Christ-mas in my heart.
joy-ful tid-ings by all peo-ple in each home.

13
8
hap-py they with-in that sta-ble
Cans't Thou stoop a--gain, yet low--er
Make a heav-en of my man-ger;
Be there heard the Christ-mas an--them:

15
8
wor-ship-ping their in-fant Lord.
And a bide with--in my breast?
it is heav-en where Thou art.
Peace on Earth good will to all!

He Is Born (*Il Est Né, Le Divin Enfant*)

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

*He is born, the divine Christ child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.*

Through long ages of the past
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

(Chorus)

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift of God sent down.

(Chorus)

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heav'nly peace.

(Chorus)

Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4th Century), Martin Luther (16th Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed
Mar - y then was found with child,
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,
3 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored
6 passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.
9 Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.
8 Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____ Glo - ri - a! ____
15
8 In the high - - - est!

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.

Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.

Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

(Chorus)

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!

With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

(Chorus x2)

BENEDICTION • Revelation 1:4-5

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ
the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

~

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

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/.

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).

"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).

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).

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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.