



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • John 7:37-38

Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Arr: Lowell Mason

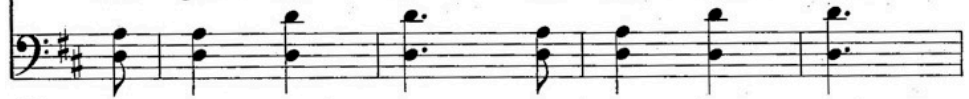
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1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
He comes to make His bless - ings flow
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



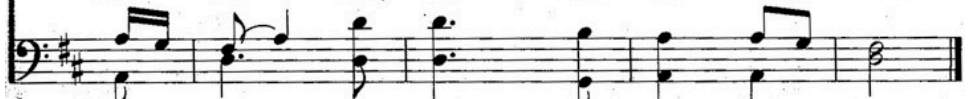
And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love,
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,



1. And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na -



And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
Far as, far as the curse is found.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



ture sing,

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 4:15

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 1 Chronicles 29:12-14

"Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Isaiah 57:15

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...

(Te Deum Laudamus, 5th Century)

You are God.

We praise you!

You are the Lord.

We acclaim you!

You are the eternal Father.

All creation worships you!

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory!*

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you.

Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free,
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
*You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.*

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting... *Amen.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12th Century Latin Hymn • 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 five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo and meter are indicated by the 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el." The score ends with a double bar line.

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and
ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that
mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of
God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra -
el.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Chorus)

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
(Chorus)

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 14, and 18. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

An-gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing
o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re-ply
ech-o back their joy-ous strains. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis
De-o, glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

(Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

(Chorus)

NEW TESTAMENT READING • **Philippians 2:1-11**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- ⁶ who, being¹ in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
⁸ And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “Christmas Humility” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-45)

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.” (1 John 4:2-3)

“God is always God, even in his humiliation.” (Karl Barth)

“He became what we are in order to enable us to become what he is.” (Irenaeus)

“All ideas about what the word ‘God’ means must be tested by what is to be seen in the words and deeds of this totally humble and obedient man.” (Lesslie Newbigin)

¹ ESV: “though he was...”



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Nicene Creed

What do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

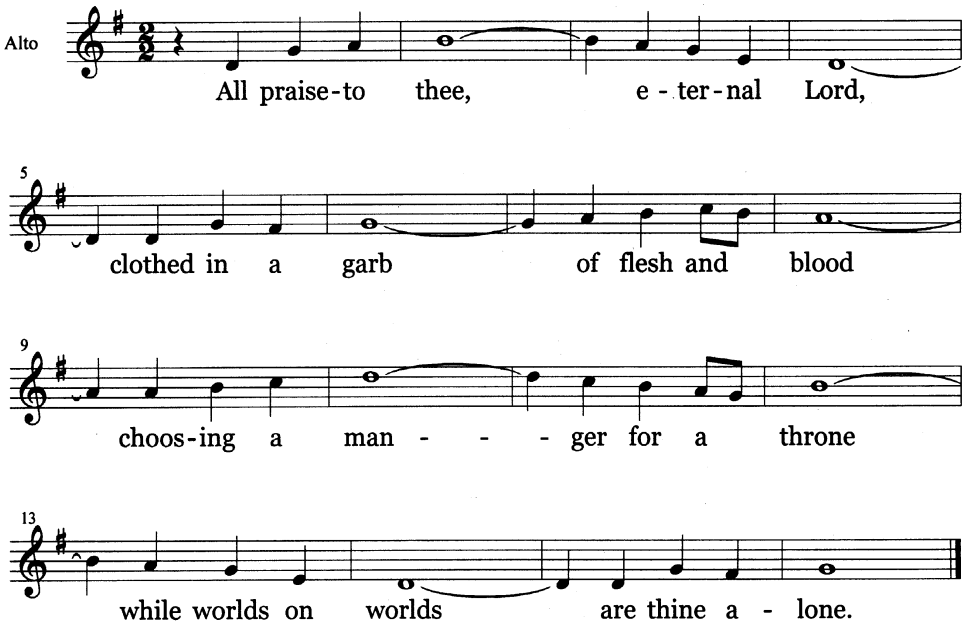
(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for him in this world. Please come forward after 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].)

¹ Or, "universal."

All Praise To Thee Eternal Lord

Text: Martin Luther • Music: American folk tune • Public Domain

Alto



All praise-to thee, e - ter - nal Lord,
5 clothed in a garb of flesh and blood
9 choos - ing a man - - - ger for a throne
13 while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.

Once did the skies before thee bow;
a virgin's arms contain thee now,
while angels, who in thee rejoice,
now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest,
that weary ones in thee may rest;
forlorn and lowly is thy birth;
that we may rise to heaven from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night
to make us children of the light;
to make us, in the realms divine,
like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done;
by this to thee our love is won;
for this we tune our cheerful lays,
and sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing
Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Tenor

On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring; On
Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring: News of great
joy, news of great mirth,
news of our mer - ci - full - King's
birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore, Amen!"

Hosanna In The Highest

Text: The Book of Common Prayer • Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the
O Sav - ior with pro - tect - ing care, a - bide in this thy
4 Be ho - nor, praise, and glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and
liv - ing word! Where we thy par - ting prom - ise claim, as -
house of prayer; and make our se - cret soul to be, a
7 all in heav'n, to God the Fa - ther and the Son, and
semb - led in thy sa - cred name; to Christ, cre - a - tor
tem - ple pure and ho - ly; be hon - or praise and
10 God the Spi - rit three in one, be hon - or praise and
Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heav'n, Ho - san - nas sing! Ho - san - na!
glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n.
14 glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n!
— Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est! —

To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;
a child born meek and lowly, the infant King of Glory!
To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!

BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called,
beloved in God the Father
and kept for Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

~

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

Finance Update • From January through November we ran a deficit of roughly \$15k. Your generosity supports ministries and missionaries locally, regionally, and globally. Thank you.

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Jan. 1) 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!

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).

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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(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.