



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 8, 2023


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Ephesians 5:14

*“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six 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 music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual."

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:
the Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 10:12-14

When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

CONFESSION OF SIN

God, you are majestic in your freedom to love. You made us to share this glory with you, but we doubted you and became enslaved to sin. Left to ourselves, we are spiritually blind, deaf, and lame; we cannot change or help ourselves; we are dead to you in our rebellion. We certainly do not deserve your kindness. Yet you remain free to love the unlovely, which is your glory. Take pity on us, forgive us, and make us alive to you. Restore us to true freedom in communion with you. Your declaration of mercy in Christ Jesus the Lord is our only hope and prayer. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to Yahweh¹ the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

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

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 • Psalm 18:1-13, 16-19

- 1 I love you, O Yahweh, my strength.
- 2 Yahweh is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3 I call upon Yahweh, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.
- 4 The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
- 5 the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- 6 In my distress I called upon Yahweh;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.
- 7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.
- 8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.
- 9 He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
- 10 He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.
- 11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.
- 12 Out of the brightness before him
hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.
- 13 Yahweh also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice,
hailstones and coals of fire...

- 16 He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.
- 17 He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.
- 18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but Yahweh was my support.
- 19 He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

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...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God's sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, saying

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.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part". The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, and 17.

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

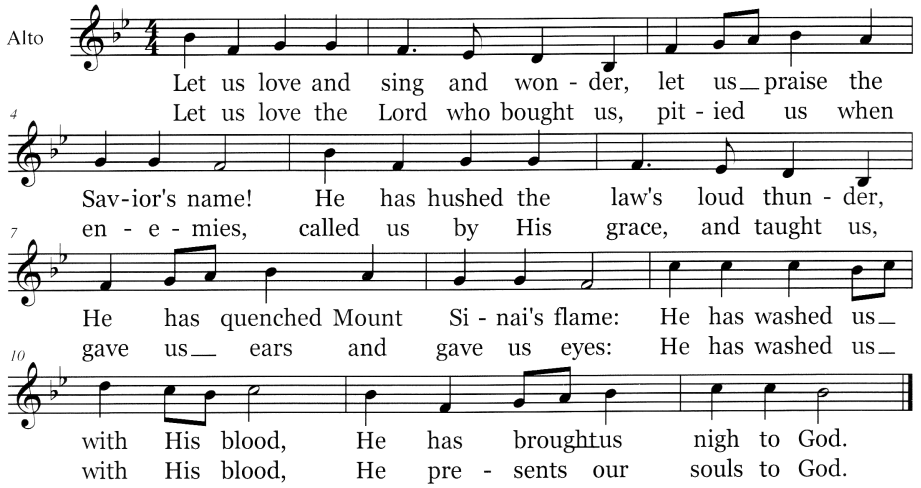
Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.

One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

Text: John Newton • Music: *Darmstadt Gesangbuch*

Alto



Let us love and sing and won - der, let us — praise the
4 Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when
7 Sav - ior's name! He has hushed the law's loud thun - der,
en - e - mies, called us by His grace, and taught us,
10 He has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame: He has washed us —
gave us — ears and gave us eyes: He has washed us —
with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.
with His blood, He pre - sents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu'ror's crown:
He has washed us with His blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
He has washed us with His blood, has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted Him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood; You are worthy, Lamb of God!"

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 12:22-32

Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "The Plunderer" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)

"Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? For thus says Yahweh: 'Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.'" (Isaiah 49:24-25)

"Christ attacked Satan in open combat, threw him down, and left him nothing remaining." (John Calvin)

"Those persons sin and blaspheme against the Holy Spirit who maliciously turn to his dishonor the perfections of God which have been revealed to him by the Spirit, in which his glory ought to be celebrated... who turn the only medicine of salvation into a deadly venom." (John Calvin)

"Sin against the Holy Spirit is the rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior. Since it is faith in Christ alone that brings forgiveness for all sin, rejecting Christ is the one and only sin that cuts you off from all forgiveness." (Timothy Keller)



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].)

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Text & Music: Stuart Townend • ©1995 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Deep The Father's Love For Us'. It consists of ten staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 15. The lyrics are: 'How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how Be-hold the man up-on the cross, my I will not boast in an-y thing, no vast be-yond all mea-sure, that sin up-on His should-ers; a-gifts, no pow'r, no wis-dom; but He should give His on-ly Son to shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call I will boast in Je-sus Christ, His make a wretch His trea-sure. How out a-mong the scof-fers. It death and res-ur-rect-ion. Why great the pain of sear-ing loss; the Fa-ther turns His was my sin that held Him there un-til it was ac-should I gain from His re-ward? I can-not give an face a-way as wounds which mar the com-plished. His dy-ing breath has an-swer, but this I know with cho-sen one bring man-y sons to glo-ry. brought me life, I know that it is fin-ished. all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran-som.'

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Text: George Matheson • Music: Christopher Miner • ©1997 Christopher Miner



O Love that will not let me go, I
O Light that follow'st all my way, I
O Joy that seek'st me through pain, I
O Cross that lift'st up my head, I



rest my weary soul in thee; I
yield my flick'ring torch to thee; My
can not close my heart to thee; I
dare not ask to fly from thee; I



give thee back the life I owe, That
heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, That
trace the rain-bow through the rain, And
lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, And



in thine ocean depths its flow May
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day May
feel the promise is not vain, That
from the ground there blos-soms red Life



ri-cher, full-er be.
bright-er, fair-er be.
morn shall tear-less be.
that shall end-less be.

BENEDICTION • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

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

Men's Study • 6:30am Wednesdays at Starbucks (16175 SW Walker Road, Beaverton). This group is surveying the Bible using *The Drama of Scripture* by C. Bartholomew and M. W. Goheen. Contact: Rob Stevenson (robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com) for more information.

Women's Studies:

- 2pm Wednesdays. Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).
- 7pm Thursdays. Contact: Jerilee Costa (jerilee.costa@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).

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.