



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • MAY 21, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 46:8-10

Come, behold the works of Yahweh¹,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹ The ESV translates God’s personal name, Yahweh, as “the LORD” (small caps).

Holy, Holy, Holy

Text: Reginald Heber • Music: John Dykes • Public Domain



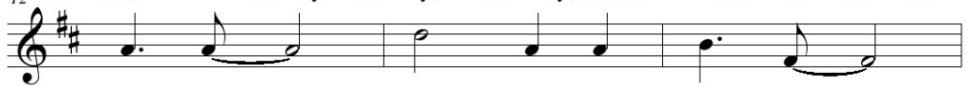
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ Lord____ God Al - migh - ty!____
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ All the saints a - dore Thee,____
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ though the dark - ness hide Thee,____
5 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ Lord____ God Al - migh - ty!____



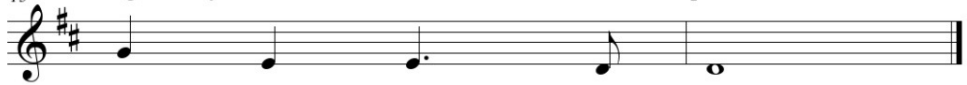
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not
8 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and



Thee. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!____ Mer - ci - ful and
sea; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be -
see; On - ly Thou art ho - ly;____ there is none be -
12 sea; Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;____ mer - ci - ful and



might - y!____ God in three per - sons,____
fore Thee,____ Who wert, and art, and____
side Thee,____ Per - fect in pow'r, in____
15 migh - ty!____ God in Three per - sons,____



bles - ed Trin - i - ty!
ev - er - more shalt be.
love, and pur - i - ty.
bles - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 6:1, 5

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple... And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts!"

CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you forgive us and cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice telling us that his blood is our peace, his death our freedom, his smiting our safety. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Isaiah 6:6-7

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

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 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Psalm 139:7-12

- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with 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, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.

Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.

Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.

Jesus, you are full of compassion.

Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.

Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.

And teach us to pray as you taught your disciples, 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.

I, Even I, Will Sing Unto The Lord

Text: Amy Carmichael

Music: Edward J. Hopkins • © 1960 Dohnavur Fellowship

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff at the beginning of each measure.

System 1: Measures 1-5. Chords: F, C7, F. Lyrics: 1. I, ev - en I, will sing un - to the Lord, For ev - er 2. Where dark - ness was, He said, Let there be light; I saw the 3. Shep - herd of Is - rael, what can baf - fle Love, Or cause Di - 4. Love, on - ly Love, these night - y things can do, What Love has

System 2: Measures 6-10. Chords: Dm, G7, C, C7, F, Gm. Lyrics: and for ev - er the A - dored; I, ev - en I, though blind re - cei - ving heav'n - ly sight. His mir - a - cles are - vine com - pas - sion to re - move? Out of a fall, Love pur - posed, Love will car - ry through. I, ev - en I will

System 3: Measures 11-15. Chords: C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F. Lyrics: I be dust, will sing To Him who ev - en now is tri - umph - ing. with us once a - gain; O worth - y is the Lamb that has been slain. makes a step - ping stone, And quite re - vers - es all the foe has done. sing un - to the Lord, For ev - er and for ev - er the A - dored.

O God Our Help In Ages Past

Text: Isaac Watts (paraphrasing Psalm 90)

Music: William Croft • Public Domain

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the sha - dow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
5 Time, like an e - ver rol - ling stream, bears all of us a - way,
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the stor - my blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from e - ver - las - ting you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ri - sing sun.
we fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - ening day.
be now our guard while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Ephesians 4:8-10

⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Philippians 2:9-11

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 • “The Apostles’ Creed: ‘He Descended Into Hell, On The Third Day He Rose Again From The Dead’” (Rev. Pat Roach)

Rev. Pat Roach is a graduate of Texas A&M University and Westminster Seminary. He has served as Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) Campus Minister at Rice University (1999-2007), planted Hope PCA in Portland (2007-2014), and is now the Western U.S. Area Coordinator for RUF. He and his wife, Ashley, have three children: Mary, Anna, and James.



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Apostles' Creed

What do you believe?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.¹ The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 When the Creed states that Jesus “descended into hell,” we understand it to mean that he suffered the holy wrath of God for the sins of his people.

² Or, “universal.”

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Text: Horatius Bonar • Music: *Kingsfold* • Public Domain



I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come ___
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I ___



un - to me ___ and rest; Lay ___ down O wear - y one lay down your ___
hold, I free - ly give The ___ liv - ing wa - ter; thirs - ty one, stoop -
am this dark ___ world's Light; Look ___ unto Me your morn shall rise, and and ___



soul u - pon ___ my breast." I ___ came to Je - sus as I was ___
down, and drink, ___ and live." I ___ came to Je - sus, and I drank of
all your days ___ be bright." I ___ looked to Je - sus, and I found in



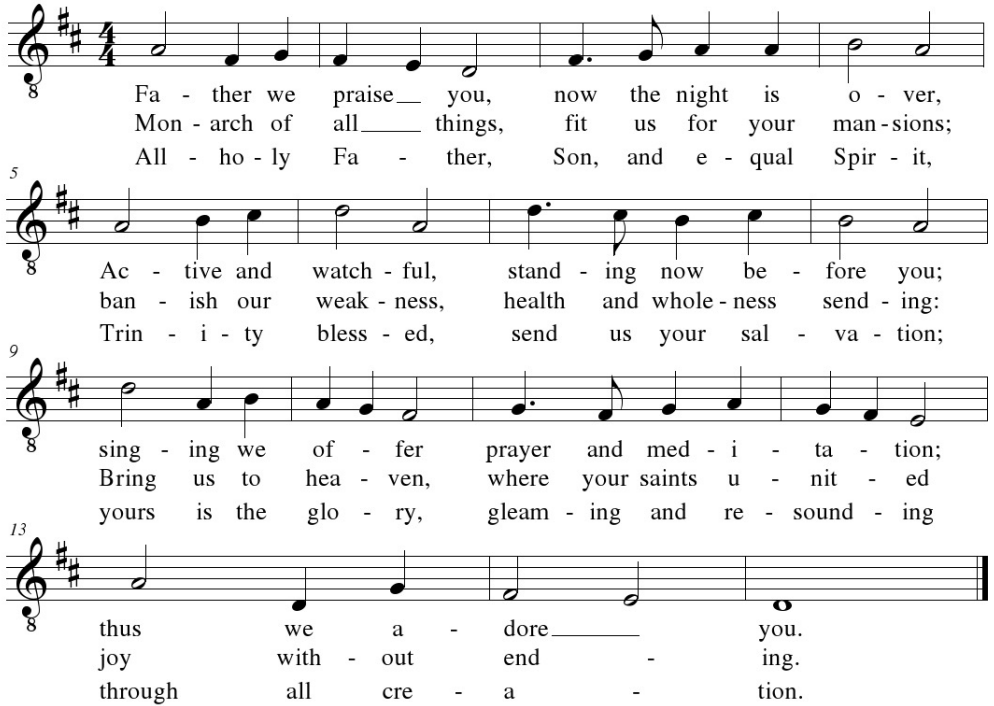
wear - y worn ___ and sad I ___ found in Him my rest - ing place and ___
that life - giv - ing stream; My ___ thirst was quenched my soul re - vived and ___
Him my Star, ___ my Sun; and ___ in that light of life I'll walk till ___



He has made ___ me glad.
now I live ___ in Him.
travel - ing days ___ are done.

Father, We Praise You

Text: Gregory I (540-604) • Music: *Christe Sanctorum*, French Church Melody (1681) • Public Domain



8 Fa - ther we praise you, now the night is o - ver,
Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions;
All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it,

5 Ac - tive and watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you;
ban - ish our weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing:
Trin - i - ty bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion;

9 sing - ing we of - fer prayer and med - i - ta - tion;
Bring us to hea - ven, where your saints u - nit - ed
yours is the glo - ry, gleam - ing and re - sound - ing

13 thus we a - dore you.
joy with - out end - ing.
through all cre - a - tion.

BENEDICTION • 2 Peter 1:2

May grace and peace be multiplied to you
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

~

Church Campout • Aug. 18-20 at Detroit Lake. The church has reserved eight campsites, and the cost is \$50 per site. To register, and for more info, contact Nicole Hamilton (neh.hamilton@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.