



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JUNE 11, 2023



THE WORD



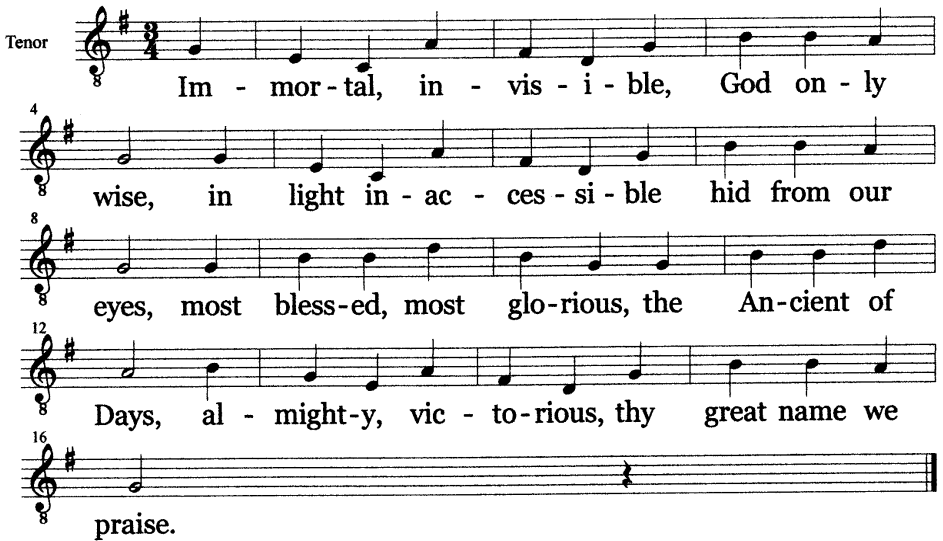
CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 50:14-15

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith • Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we
praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Isaiah 45:22, 24a

“Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
Only in Yahweh¹, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Isaiah 45:17

Israel is saved by Yahweh
with everlasting salvation;
you shall not be put to shame or confounded
to all eternity.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Psalm 50:14

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High.

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 • Isaiah 29:17-19

17 Is it not yet a very little while
 until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
 and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

18 In that day the deaf shall hear
 the words of a book,
 and out of their gloom and darkness
 the eyes of the blind shall see.

19 The meek shall obtain fresh joy in Yahweh,
 and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

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 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.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Music: William M. Runyan • Lyric: Thomas O. Chisolm • ©1923/1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Tenor

8

6

11

16

21

26

31

8

8

8

8

8

8

8

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Father; there is no
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev-er wilt
be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mercies I see: all I have
need-ed thy hand hath pro - vided, Great is thy faith-ful-ness,
Lord, un - - - to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten-thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Glorify Your Name

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

Fa - ther we love you we wor-ship and a - dore you,
glo - ri - fy your name in all the earth, glo -
ri - fy your name, glo - ri - fy
your name, glo - ri - fy your name
in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth.
Glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 9:18-38

While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”¹⁹ And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.²⁰ And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.²³ And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.²⁶ And the report of this went through all that district.

²⁷ And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.”³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.”³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

³² As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him.³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “The Gospel of the Kingdom” (Rev. Dr. Alan Carter)

Dr. Carter served as pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL, from 1986-2016. He holds a Ph.D. degree in religious epistemology (apologetics) from the philosophy department of the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Divinity Degree and a Master of Christian Education from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, and a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Mississippi State University. He has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham Theological Seminary, Beeson Divinity School, and both RTS-Jackson and RTS-Charlotte. Dr. Carter and his wife, Sally, have made over ten overseas mission trips together, and they love encountering God’s people from other cultures. They have two married sons, Nathan and Tim, and six grandchildren.



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].)

I Hunger And I Thirst

Text: John S. B. Monsell, Matthew H. Curl

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 I hun - ger and I thirst;
Thou bruised and bro - ken Bread,
Thou true life - giv - ing Vine,
Rough paths my feet have trod,
3 Je - sus my man - na be; ye liv - ing wa - ters,
my life - long needs sup - ply; as liv - ing souls are
let me Thy sweet - ness prove; re - new my life with
since first their course be - gan; feed me, thou Bread of
6 burst, out of the rock for me. I
fed, O feed me or I die. I
Thine, re - fresh my soul with love. I
9 God, help me thou Son of Man. I
8 hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
13 hun - ger and I thirst; Je - sus my man - na be!
8 Je - sus Christ the bread of
17 life, I hun - ger for you Lord!

For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before;
O living waters rise within me evermore.
I hunger and I thirst, Jesus my manna be!

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!
Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, I hunger for you Lord!

God Of My Life

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800)

Music: Benj Pocta, Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy

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The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Of My Life'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a vocal line and lyrics underneath. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: 'God of my life to Thee I call; Friend of the friend-less and the faint, That were a grief I could not bear, Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall; where should I lodge my deep com - plaint? didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer; When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail, Where but with Thee whose o - pen door, But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God, Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail. In - vites the help - less and the poor? sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load. Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not; And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the Lord is sure to plead.'

God of my life to Thee I call;
Friend of the friend-less and the faint,
That were a grief I could not bear,
Af - flict - ed at Thy feet I fall;
where should I lodge my deep com - plaint?
didst Thou not hear and an - swer prayer;
When the great wa - ter floods pre - - vail,
Where but with Thee whose o - pen door,
But a prayer hear - ing, an - swer - ing God,
Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail.
In - vites the help - less and the poor?
sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load.
Poor though I am, des - pised, for -
got, Yet God, my God, for - gets me not;
And he is safe, and must suc - ceed, for whom, the
Lord is sure to plead.

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.

~

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.