



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 9, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 66:8-9

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

All Creatures Of Our God And King

Text: Francis of Assisi

Music: *Giestliche Kirchengesänge* (1623) • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All Creatures of Our God and King'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 3/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with measure numbers 3, 5, 8, 11, and 14 indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The lyrics are as follows:

8 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift
Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye
Thou flow - ing wat - er pure and clear, make
And all ye men of ten - der heart, For -
Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And

3 up your voice and with us sing Al - le -
clouds that sail in heav'n a - long, O
mu - sic for thy Lord to hear, Al - le -
giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, O
wor - ship Him in hum - ble - ness, O

5 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en
praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn in praise re -
lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and
sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row
praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fath - er, praise the

8 beam, thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O
joice, Ye lights of eve - ning find a voice,
bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light,
bear, Praise God and on Him cast your care!
Son, And praise the Spir - it, Three in One!

11 praise Him, O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

14 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Jeremiah 2:12-13

“Be appalled, O heavens, at this;

be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares Yahweh¹,

for my people have committed two evils:

they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living waters,

and hewed out cisterns for themselves,

broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Fountain of Living Waters, you give to all mankind life and breath and everything. But we have refused to honor you or give you thanks. We stubbornly pretend that we don't need you, that we can help ourselves. We actively resist your presence and will in our lives. We thoughtlessly ignore you, which may be the worst slight of all. Yet you remain a God of light and life and love, and, in your grace, you have invaded this world to save us from ourselves. Your presence and will, as seen in Jesus, is better than our autonomy. We are sorry for our foolish rebellion. Please forgive us, and fix our eyes on Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Jeremiah 3:22a

“Return, O faithless sons;

I will heal your faithlessness.”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:2-4

“When you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 1 Peter 5:6-11

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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...

Father Eternal, God Almighty, you have brought forth from the root of Jesse a shoot, Jesus our Savior.

He is your anointed one, the promised Messiah, in him you are well pleased. We come to you in his service, to offer our prayers of intercession for the coming of his kingdom.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be both Lord and Christ.

We pray for the Church of Christ that she might be faithful to her Lord, bearing witness to his reign in every land among every people.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be our Lord and Shepherd.

We pray for those whom you have appointed to be ministers of your gospel. We especially ask for your protection and help for our pastor.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus to be Lord of all the earth.

We pray that you draw all people to kneel before the Prince of Peace. Please establish justice and peace between nations in your world.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords.

We pray for the rulers of our nation that they might be wise, fearing the Lord to whom they must bow in the world to come.

Father Eternal, you have anointed Jesus a counselor and comforter of your people.

We pray for those among us who suffer, for those who are lonely, for those without home or family, for those who are depressed and discouraged, for those who are seeking work, for those who are sick, for those who are grieving.

Praise, honor and glory belong to you, Eternal Father, and to your Son, who taught us to pray 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.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Text: *Münster Gesangbuch* (Anonymous German Hymn, 1677)

Music: Silesian Folk Song (1842) • Public Domain

Tenor



8 Fair-est Lord Je - sus, Rul-er of all na - ture,
Fair are the mead - ows, fair_ are the wood - lands,
Fair is the sun - shine, fair_ is the moon - light,

5 Son of_ God and_ Son of Man!
robed in the bloom - ing_ garb of spring:
and all the twink - ling_ star - ry host:

9 Thee will I cher - ish, thee will I hon - or, thou,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er, who
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er than

13 my souls glo - ry, joy, and crown.
makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
all the an - gels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the Nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Peace, Perfect Peace

Text: Edward H. Bickersteth (1875)

Music: Matthew H. Curl (2008) • Used by Permission

Tenor

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of ten staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes measure numbers 4, 8, 12, 17, 21, 26, and 30. The lyrics are: 'Peace, per-fect peace, in this dark world of Peace, per-fect peace, with sor-rows surg-ing sin, the blood of Je-sus whis-pers peace with-round, on Je-sus' bo-som naught but calm is in. Peace, perfect peace, by throng-ing du-ties found. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far a-pressed, to do the will of Je-sus, this is rest. way, in Je-sus' keep-ing we are safe and they. It is e-nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when Je-sus calls us to heaven's per-fect peace. It is e-nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when Je-sus calls us home to a per-fect peace.'

4
8
12
17
21
26
30

Peace, per-fect peace, in this dark world of
Peace, per-fect peace, with sor-rows surg-ing
sin, the blood of Je-sus whis-pers peace with -
round, on Je-sus' bo-som naught but calm is
in. Peace, perfect peace, by throng-ing du-ties
found. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far a -
pressed, to do the will of Je-sus, this is rest. _____
way, in Je-sus' keep-ing we are safe and they. _____
It is e - nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when
Je-sus calls us to heaven's per-fect peace. It is e -
nough: earth's strug-gles soon shall cease, when Je-sus calls us
home to a per - fect peace.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown,
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadows us and ours,
Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.

*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us to heaven's perfect peace.*

*It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
when Jesus calls us home to a perfect peace.*

GOSPEL READING • Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.”

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹ and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Satan’s Seasons” (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 • Colossians 1:15-20

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 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].)

O Sacred Head

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux • Music: J. S. Bach • Public Domain

Alto

O sa - cred Head now wound - ed with
3
grief and shame weighed down; now scorn - ful - ly sur -
6
round - ed with thorns thine on - ly crown; O
9
sa - cred Head what glo - ry, what bliss till now was
12
thine! Yet, though de - spised and gor - y I
15
joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?

O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkart • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and dynamic markings. The lyrics are as follows:

Now thank we all our God with
O All may praise this and all boun - teous to God God God through the
3 heart and hands and voic - es, Who
all our life be near - us, With
Fa - ther now be giv - en, The
6 won - drous things hath done, in whom His world re -
e - ver joy - ful hearts and bles - sed peace to
Son, and Him who reigns with them in high - est
9 joic - es; Who, from our moth - ers'
cheer - us; And keep us in His
heav - en, The one e - ter - nal
12 arms, hath blessed us on our way With
grace, and guide us when per - plexed. And
God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore; For
15 count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
free us from all ills, in this world and the next
thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

BENEDICTION • Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

~

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.