



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 16, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:4

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
his name is Yahweh¹;
exult before him!

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

Come, Thou Almighty King

Text: Anonymous • Music: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796) • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Come, thou Almighty King, Come, thou Incarnate Word, Come, Holy Comforter, To Thee, great One in Three, help us thy name to sing, help us to gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend! Thy sacred witness bear, in this glad hour. E - ter - nal praise be, hence, ever - praise. Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - tend! Come, and Thy peo - ple bless, and give Thy hour. Thou who al - migh - ty art, now rule in more. Thy sov - ereign ma - jest - y may we in to - ri - us, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Word suc - cess, Spi - rit of ho - li - ness on us de - ev' - ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of glo - ry see, and to e - tern - it - y love and a - Days. scend! power! dore!' The score ends with a double bar line.

Come, thou Al - might - y King,
Come, thou In - car - nate Word,
Come, Ho - ly com - for - ter,
To Thee, great One - in Three,
help us thy name to sing, help us to
gird on Thy migh - ty sword, our prayer at -
Thy sac - red wit - ness bear, in this glad
E - ter - nal prais - es be, hence, e - ver -
praise. Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
tend! Come, and Thy peo - ple bless, and give Thy
hour. Thou who al - migh - ty art, now rule in
more. Thy sov - ereign ma - jest - y may we in
to - ri - us, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of
Word suc - cess, Spi - rit of ho - li - ness on us de -
ev' - ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of
glo - ry see, and to e - tern - it - y love and a -
Days.
scend!
power!
dore!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Jeremiah 3:12-13

“Return, faithless Israel,
declares Yahweh.

I will not look on you in anger,
for I am merciful,
declares Yahweh;

I will not be angry forever.

Only acknowledge your guilt,
that you rebelled against Yahweh your God.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, we are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Forgive us for how we have corrupted your good creation. Gracious God, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no sinner can stand. Your mercy is our only hope and we ask for your forgiveness. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. We pray these things in Jesus Christ's holy name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Jeremiah 31:33-34

“Their prince shall be one of themselves;
their ruler shall come out from their midst;
I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me,
for who would dare of himself to approach me?
declares Yahweh.

And you shall be my people,
and I will be your God.”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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 44:3-8

3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.

4 They shall spring up among the grass
like willows by flowing streams.

5 This one will say, 'I am Yahweh's,'
another will call on the name of Jacob,
and another will write on his hand, 'Yahweh's,'
and name himself by the name of Israel."

6 Thus says Yahweh, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

8 Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any."

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...

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,

We ask for grace and wisdom.

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,

We ask for your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask for your guidance.

For people who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words he taught us, 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.

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need (Psalm 23)

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: North American Traditional • Public Domain

1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name; ___
2 When through the shades of death I walk, your pre - sence is my stay; ___
3 Your sure pro - vi - sions, gra - cious God at - tend me all my days; ___

in pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the li - ving stream. ___
one word of your sup - por - ting breath drives all my fears a - way. ___
oh, may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise. ___

You bring my wand' - ring spi - rit back, when I for - sake your ways; ___
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread; ___
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while o - thers go and come; ___

you lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bles - sings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a stran - ger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

Psalm 46

Text & Music: Mike Crawford, Isaac Wardell • ©2009 Mike Crawford



God is our re - fuge our strength and our shield, an
Nat - tions in up - roar, men's king - doms, they fall, He
Come, let us see what the Lord has done, the



ev - er pre - sent help. We will not fear though the earth
speaks and the earth melts a - way. the worst we im - a - gine the strong -
ru - ins He brings to the earth. He makes wars to cease to the ends



— gives way. and the moun - tains crash in to the sea.
- est of storms, our for - tress, it will still re - main.
— of the earth, He shat - ters the bow and the spear. —



There is a ri - ver who's streams will make glad the ci - ty of our most High King.



God is with-in her, and she will not fail, He helps her at break of the day.
God is with-in her, and she will not fail, He helps her at break of the day.
God is with-in her, and she will not fail, List - ten and hear the Lord say: "Be



still, — and know — that I — am God." — "Be

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “You Shall Be My Witnesses” (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 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.”

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Unknown, 8th Century

Music: *Slane* (Irish Folk Tune) • Public Domain

Be thou my vis - ion, O Lord of my
Be thou my wis - dom and thou my true
Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my
Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry

4

heart, naught be all else to me
word; I ev - er with thee and
fight; be thou my dig - ni - ty,
praise; thou mine in - her - i - tance,
won, may I reach heav - en's joys,

7

save that thou art, thou my best
thou with me, Lord; thou my great
thou my de - light, thou my soul's
now and al - ways: thou and thou
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my

10

thought by day or by night
Fa - ther, I thy true son;
shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;
on - ly, first in my heart,
own heart, what - ev - er - be - fall,

13

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Rock Of Ages

Text: Augustus M. Toplady • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Rock of A - ges cleft for me, let me hide my -
Not the la - bors of my hands, can ful - fil thy
4 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
8 self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
7 cross I cling; na - ked come to thee for dress;
8 from thy ri - ven side which flowed, be of sin the
could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
10 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
8 dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
13 Foun - tain fly; wash me Sav - ior or I die.
8 Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me! Let me
16 hide my - self in thee! Rock of Ag - es, cleft for
19 me! Oh my Je - sus res - cue me!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

~

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.