



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 23, 2023


THE WORD


CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-35

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel,
and whose power is in the skies.
Awesome is God from his sanctuary;
the God of Israel—
he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God!

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: John Hatton • Public Domain

Tenor



Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the
sun does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys
run, His king - dom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and
wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hosea 6:1

Come, let us return to Yahweh¹,
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

CONFESSION OF SIN (From *The Confessions* of Augustine)

O Lord, what evil have we not done? Or if there is evil that we have not done, what evil is there that we have not spoken? If there is any that we have not spoken, what evil is there that we have not thought to do? But you, O Lord, are good. You are merciful. You saw how deep we were sunk in death, and it was your power that drained dry the well of corruption in the depths of our hearts. All that you have asked of us was to deny our own wills and accept yours. Forgive us for every failure to do so and help us to follow you in every way and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hosea 14:4

“I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

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.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of Yahweh was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of Yahweh and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord Yahweh, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Yahweh. ⁵ Thus says the Lord Yahweh to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am Yahweh."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord Yahweh: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord Yahweh: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am Yahweh, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am Yahweh; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares Yahweh."

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, we pray for your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,
that we all may be one.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Grant that every member of the church may joyfully and humbly serve you,
that your Name would be honored by all people.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who lead and guide your church,
that they may be faithful and diligent servants of you.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world,
that there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake,
that we may know the joy of living for you.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from grief or trouble,
that they may be delivered from their distress.

Lord, in your mercy... *Hear our prayer.*

Let us join together in praying as Jesus taught us to pray:

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.

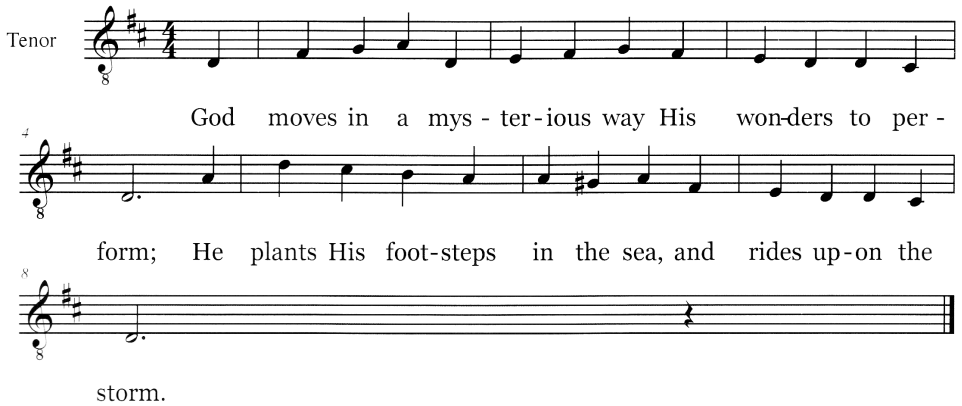
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

Text: William Cowper • Music: Scottish Psalter, 1615 • Public Domain

Tenor



God moves in a mys - ter - ious way His won - ders to per -
form; He plants His foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the
storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Amen!

It Is Well With My Soul

Text: Horatio G. Spafford • Music: Phillip P. Bliss • Public Domain

1. When peace, like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
3. My sin - O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, My sin - not in
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to
sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
state, And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well _____
more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is
scend, "E - ven so" - It is well with my soul.

— with my soul, _____ It is well, it is well with my soul.
well with my soul,

Public Domain

(sing final chorus twice)

GOSPEL READING • John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • "Sent by the One Who Was Sent" (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 • Philippians 2:6-11

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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].)

Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

Text & Music: Robert Lowry • Public Domain (Hymnary.org)



1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of
2. For my par-don this I see: noth-ing but the blood of
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone: noth-ing but the blood of
4. This is all my hope and peace: noth-ing but the blood of



Je - sus. What can make me whole a - gain?
Je - sus. For my clean - sing this my plea:
Je - sus. Naught of good that I have done:
Je - sus. This is all my right - eous - ness:



Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.
noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

Refrain



O pre cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;



no o - ther fount I know; noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

5. Now by this I'll overcome, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I'll reach my home, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Text: Charles Wesley • Music: Carl Glaser • Public Domain

Tenor

The image shows a musical score for a Tenor part. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. The lyrics are: "O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace." The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace."

O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
God and King, the tri - umphs of his
grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy!

BENEDICTION • John 20:21

Jesus said, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending 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.