



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JULY 30, 2023



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 72:18-19

Blessed be Yahweh¹, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Amen and Amen!

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

All Glory, Laud And Honor

Text: Theodulph of Orleans (ca. 820)

Music: Melchior Teschner • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee Re-deem - er King, to whom the lips of child - ren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! Thou art the King of Is - rael thou Da - vid's roy - al Son, who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One!"

All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to
thee Re-deem - er King, to whom the lips of
child - ren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! Thou
art the King of Is - rael thou Da - vid's roy - al
Son, who in the Lord's name com - est, the
King and bless - ed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present.
To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.

All glory, laud and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

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

“Yet even now,” declares Yahweh,

“return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to Yahweh your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,

*we have lived in open rebellion
against your gracious rule.*

Please, Lord Jesus, may we find

our redemption in your passion,

the absolution of our guilt in your condemnation,

the cancellation of our curse in your cross,

the satisfaction for our sins in your sacrifice,

our purification in your blood,

reconciliation to God in your descent into hell,

the death of our flesh in your tomb,

immortality in your resurrection,

our inheritance in your ascension.

We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Joel 2:32

Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 10:8

“Freely you have received. Freely give.”

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 25:6-9

- 6 On this mountain Yahweh of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
- 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
- 8 He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for Yahweh has spoken.
- 9 It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him,
that he might save us.
This is Yahweh; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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...

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in His name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all generations, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy that they might proclaim salvation to all.

Strengthen those you have chosen that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of comfort, you bear the pain of the world and stand with those who sorrow.

Look with compassion on those who are troubled, cheer them by your word, and bring them healing as a sign of your grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God, whose word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Trinity For Eternity

Text: Catherine Winkworth • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor

8 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now, our
Un - seal our lips, to sing your praise, our
Un - til we join the hosts that cry, "Ho-
8 hearts in true de - vo - tion bow.
souls to you in wor - ship raise.
9 ly are you! O Lord most high!"
8 Your Spi - rit send, with grace di - vine, and
Make strong our faith, in - crease our light, that
13 And in the light of that blest place, for -
8 let your truth with - in us shine. Glo - ry
we may know your name a - right.
18 e'er be - hold you face to face.
8 to God! The Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!
23 To You, Lord all praise! The Trin - i - ty,
28 for e - ter - ni - ty!

Psalm 121

Text: 1615 Scottish Psalter

Music: Dundee (Th. Ravenscroft) • Public Domain



I to the hills will lift mine eyes. From
Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will he
The LORD thee keeps, the LORD thy shade on
3 The LORD shall keep thy soul. He shall pre -



whence doth come mine aid? My safe - ty com - eth
slum - ber that thee keeps. Be - hold, he that keeps
thy right hand doth stay. The moon by night thee
6 serve thee from all ill. Hence - forth thy go - ing



from the LORD, who heav'n and earth hath made.
Is - ra - el, he slum - bers not, nor sleeps.
shall not smite, nor yet the sun by day.
out and in God keep for - ev - er will.

NEW TESTAMENT READING • Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • "God's Mission" (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.”

O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis • Music: Thomas J. Williams • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: "O the deep deep love of Je - sus vast un - meas - ured bound - less free Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me Un - der - neath me all a - round me is the cur - rent of Thy love lead - ing on - ward lead - ing home - ward to Thy glo - rious rest a - bove." The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 26, and 30. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with occasional sixteenth-note runs.

O the deep deep love of Je - sus
5 vast un - meas - ured bound - less free
9 Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
13 in its full - ness o - ver me
17 Un - der - neath me all a - round me
21 is the cur - rent of Thy love lead - ing
26 on - ward lead - ing home - ward to Thy
30 glo - rious rest a - bove.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore.
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore.
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own.
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from his throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best.
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me.
And it lifts me up to glory for it lifts me up to thee.

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Text: Edward H. Plumptre

Tune: "Marion," Arthur H. Messiter • Public Domain

1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart, re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2. Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong men and maid - ens meek,
3. With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth,
4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song; God's won - drous prais - es speak.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth!
from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.

REFRAIN

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks, and sing.
Re - joice, re - joice,

5. At last the march shall end,
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.

(refrain)

6. Then on, ye pure in heart,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

(refrain)

BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times in every way.
The Lord be with you all.

~

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (August 6) we collect *Alms*, gifts of mercy that the deacons can use to meet urgent needs as we are made aware of them. (If you need financial help, please let us know! Contact: deacons@ascensionpc.org.)

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 (nwcpnetwork.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.