# ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP • AUGUST 20, 2023



#### CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 95:6-8a

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yahweh<sup>1</sup> our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The ESV translates God's personal name, Yahweh, as "the LORD" (small caps).

Holy, Holy, Holy

Text: Reginald Heber • Music: John Dykes • Public Domain



# PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen! *He is risen indeed!* Let us pray...

# CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • John 3:16-17

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

# **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Holy Trinity, God of love, glorious Creator and Lord, you made us in your image for relationships of holy love. But we have loved ourselves. You have generously given us every good gift, including the gift of our very selves. But we have pretended to be self-made. We have violated our relationship with you while convincing ourselves that there is nothing wrong with us. In reaching out to seize life apart from you, we have lost everything. We are undone. But our betrayal could not stop your love. You came into the world in the Person of your Son to seek and to save the lost. Save us from ourselves. And help us to find ourselves in the Beloved: forgiven, accepted, and renewed in your image. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

# ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • John 19:30

Jesus said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

May the peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you!* 

# OFFERING • Acts 20:32, 35

"Now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified... By working hard we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

# 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 • Psalm 22:1-22

1	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
2	O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
3	Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
4	In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
5	To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
6	But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
7	All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
8	"He trusts in Yahweh; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
9	Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
10	you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth,
	and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
11	Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.
12	Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
13	they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
14	I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax;
15	it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
16	For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
17	they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones—
18	they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
19	But you, O Yahweh, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

 <sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!
 <sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

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...

O Lord, we cry out to you for the Church: Particularly for our sister churches in the Pacific Northwest Presbytery.

O Lord, we cry out to you for all the people of the earth:

We pray for those who do not know you; we pray that your gospel would run in our city; we pray that your fame and glory would spread here and throughout the world.

O Lord, we cry out to you for our own nation:

Please give our President humility, wisdom, strength and trust in you. Please bless our Governor and our Mayor; please bring prosperity and peace to our city through your gospel.

O Lord, we cry out to you for the poor and suffering of our community:

We pray for those who are living on the streets. We pray for those who are discouraged and suffering in depression. We pray for those who are struggling financially. We pray for those who are sick or facing imminent death and for those who care for them.

O Lord we cry out to you with our individual concerns and needs...

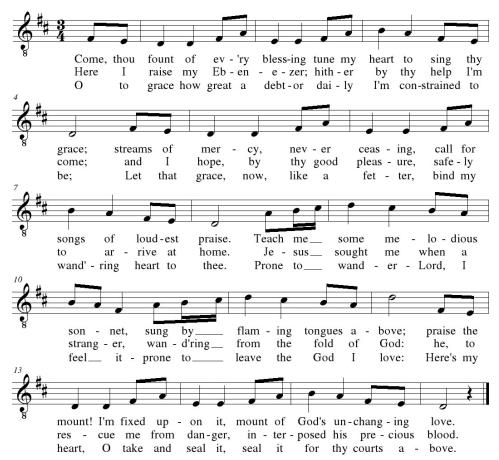
(Silent prayer)

All of these things we ask of you in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, 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.

#### Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing<sup>1</sup>

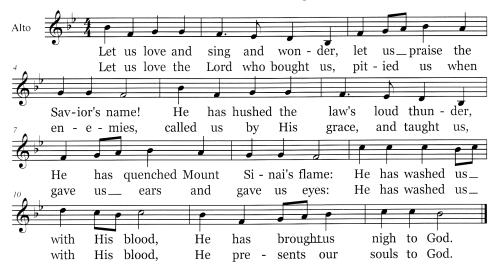
Text: Robert Robinson (1758) Music: Asahel Nettleton (1825) • Public Domain



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Ebenezer* (verse 2) is Hebrew for "stone of help." In 1 Samuel 7:12, the prophet Samuel set up a stone memorial and called it Ebenezer to remember that "till now Yahweh has helped us."

#### Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

Text: John Newton • Music: Darmstadt Gesangbuch



Let us sing though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down! For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu'ror's crown: He has washed us with His blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store; When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more: He has washed us with His blood, has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high; Here they trusted Him before us, now their praises fill the sky: "You have washed us with Your blood; You are worthy, Lamb of God!"

#### GOSPEL READING • Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Praise be to you, O Christ!* 

#### SERMON • "Take Up Your Cross" (Rev. Eric Costa)



# **CONFESSION OF FAITH • Psalm 23**

What do you believe about the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. 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].)

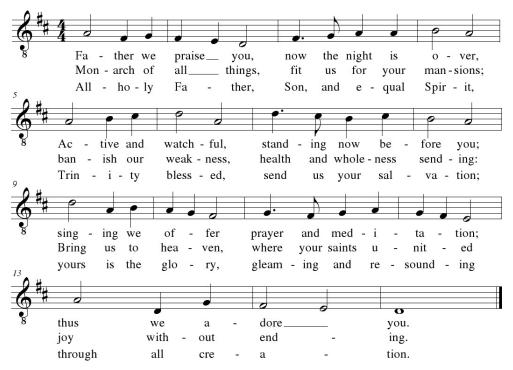
#### There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

Text: William Cowper • Music: Lowell Mason • Public Domain



# Father, We Praise You

Text: Gregory I (540-604) Music: *Christe Sanctorum,* French Church Melody (1681) Public Domain



#### **BENEDICTION • Galatians 1:3-5**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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**Sunday School** • Are you interested in serving the children/youth of our congregation? You could help with Sunday School! We plan to get started again in September, so now is the time to coordinate volunteers. Contact Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

Church Picnic • Sun., Aug. 27, after Worship, at the Walnut Street Park.

**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).

#### **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 t	the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)
Name(s)	<ul> <li>[] I am a visitor.</li> <li>[] I want to know more about being a Christian.</li> <li>[] I would like to get coffee with the Pastor.</li> <li>[] Please send me the email newsletter.</li> </ul>
Email / Phone	[] Please use this info for the photo directory.