

PUBLIC WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



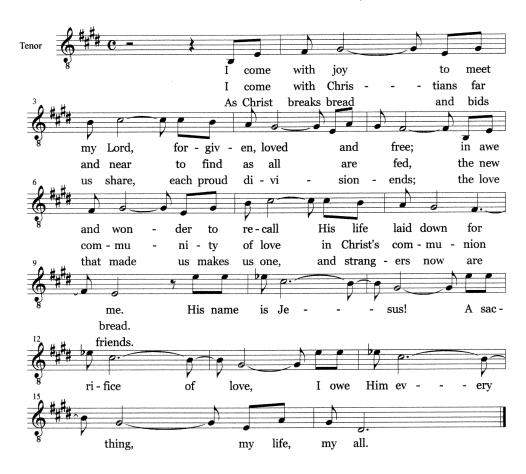
CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 97:12

Rejoice in Yahweh¹, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

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

I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord

Text: Brian Wren • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways; and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise. His name is Jesus! A sacrifice of love, I owe him everything, my life, my all.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their servants. We have not worshiped you in spirit and in truth. We have brought insult upon your reputation. We have not trusted you to give us rest. We have not honored others as they deserve. We have hated our neighbors. Our desires are all distorted and misplaced. We have taken for ourselves what did not belong to us. We have lied, slandered, and gossiped. We have coveted the good blessings you gave to others. O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have not kept your law. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Luke 24:46-47

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations."

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

OFFERING • 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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 • Exodus 30:11-16

Yahweh said to Moses, ¹² "When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to Yahweh when you number them, that there be no plague among them when you number them. ¹³ Each one who is numbered in the census shall give this: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as an offering to Yahweh. ¹⁴ Everyone who is numbered in the census, from twenty years old and upward, shall give Yahweh's offering. ¹⁵ The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give Yahweh's offering to make atonement for your lives. ¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before Yahweh, so as to make atonement for your lives."

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...

Our Father in heaven, you are over all and through all and in all. All things come from you. We exist for you.

We praise you for all your works, especially in our creation and redemption.

Holy Father, no one has ever seen you, except the One who is at your side. We thank you for making yourself known to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Eternal Father, you loved the Son before the foundation of the world. By your grace you have loved us even as you have loved him.

We love you because you first loved us. We want to know you and love you even as your Son knows you and loves you.

Merciful Father, you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up for us all. We believe that you sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins.

Father of glory, you raised your Son from the dead, and you have given all things into his hands.

We tremble at your power over life and death. We submit to the authority of your Son.

Father, you have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

We adore you for adopting us as your sons and daughters through Christ. We rejoice that you have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you.

We thank you for your daily care for our physical needs. Please keep our hearts from loving the gifts more than the Giver.

Father of spirits, what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

We trust that you love us, and that you are forming Christ in us through our temporary sufferings. Please have mercy on us in the weakness of our faith, and make us ready for heaven.

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows, you love justice and mercy. We want to be more like you. Please help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to put their needs before our own.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to pray as your Son taught His disciples, 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.

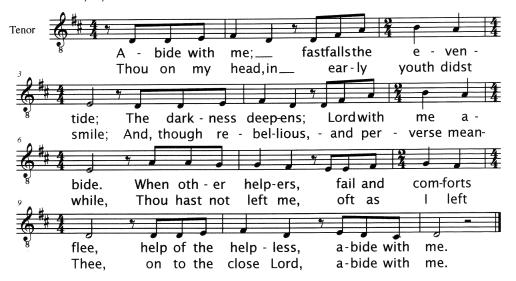
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

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

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

Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte • Music: Justin Smith • ©2007 Justin Smith Music



I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

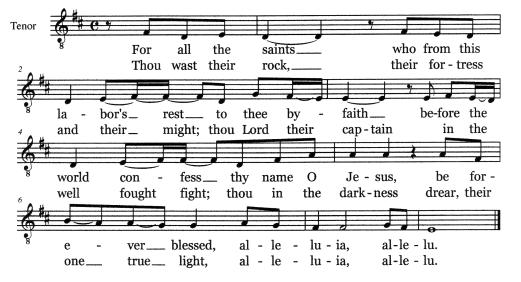
I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness. Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory? I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee; In life and death, Lord, abide with me.

For All The Saints

Text: William H. How

Music: Christopher Miner • ©1998 Christopher Miner



O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia, Alelu...

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest; sweet is the calm of paradise the blest,
Alleluia, Alelu...

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Aleluia, Aleluia,
Aleluia.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 17:24-27

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" ²⁵ He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" ²⁶ And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. ²⁷ However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

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

SERMON • "The Sons Are Free" (Rev. Eric Costa)

[&]quot;Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1)

[&]quot;Before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith...

[&]quot;You were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 3:23-26; 5:13-14)



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. 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."

According To Thy Gracious Word

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission



On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Text: Samuel Stennett • Music: Christopher Miner

©1997 Christopher Miner



When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blessed; for I shall see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest.

(Chorus)

Filled with delight my raptured soul would here no longer stay; though Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless I'd launch away.

(Chorus)

BENEDICTION • Jude 1-2

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

^

After Worship Today • Join us around 11:30 for Sunday School (kids) and Sermon Discussion (adults).

Youth Group • We plan to start our weekly (Wednesday evening) meeting again for 6th through 12th graders in early October. A week or so before we start, we'll have a planning meeting for adults who want to be involved—if you're interested in being part of that, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat • Nov. 3-5 (Fri. - Sun.). Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@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).

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)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

	>
ascensio	onpc.org
(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.