



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • NOVEMBER 26, 2023



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 113:1-3**

Praise Yahweh!

Praise, O servants of Yahweh,  
praise the name of Yahweh!

Blessed be the name of Yahweh  
from this time forth and forevermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of Yahweh is to be praised!

# Let All Things Now Living

Text: Katherine Davis

Music: "Ash Grove" (Trad. Welch Melody) • Public Domain

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks -  
2. His law he en - forc - es: the stars in their

giv - ing to God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly  
cours - es, the sun in its or - bit, o - be - dient - ly

raise, who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and  
shine; the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and

stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our  
foun - tains, the deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di -

days. His ban - ners are o'er us, his  
vine. We too should be voic - ing our

light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing  
love and re - joic - ing, with glad ad - o - ra - tion a

forth in the night, 'til shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is  
song let us raise, 'til all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:19-20**

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Father has given all judgment into your hands.*

*We can hardly bear to confess our sins to you,*

*but neither can we hide them from you.*

*O God, you know that we have sinned against you*

*from the depths of our souls, every day of our lives.*

*Judge of all the earth, our life is in your hands.*

*When you placed your life in our hands, it meant your death.*

*We entrust ourselves to your good judgment, and to yours alone.*

*In your mercy, be our judge. In your holiness, forgive us.*

*Assure us of your perfect love, and cast out all our fears. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:21-22**

You, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Psalm 96:8**

Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## **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 • Ezekiel 18:21-32

“If a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>22</sup> None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. <sup>23</sup> Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord Yahweh, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? <sup>24</sup> But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

<sup>25</sup> “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup> “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord Yahweh. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord Yahweh; so turn, and live.”

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...

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem, may your church be a sign of hope and glory.

*Lord, have mercy.*

O Christ, truly risen from the dead, our Alpha and Omega, may the whole world live in peace and justice, according to your will.

*Lord, have mercy.*

O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of promise, fulfill the needs and desires of those who are sick or sorrowful.

*Lord, have mercy.*

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.

*Teach us to proclaim the good news of your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.*

God, 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.*

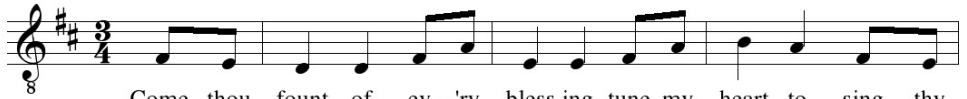
*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

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

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

Text: Robert Robinson (1758)

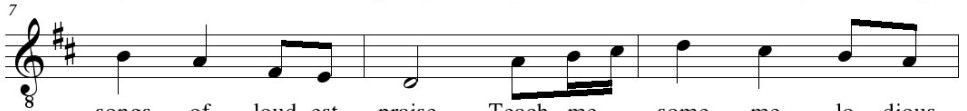
Music: Asahel Nettleton (1825) • Public Domain



Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing tune my heart to sing thy  
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm  
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for  
come; and I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly  
be; Let that grace, now, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me\_\_ some me - lo - dious  
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus\_\_ sought me when a  
wand' - ring heart to thee. Prone to\_\_ wand - er - Lord, I



son - net, sung by\_\_ flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the  
strang - er, wan - d'ring\_\_ from the fold of God: he, to  
feel\_\_ it - prone to\_\_ leave the God I love: Here's my



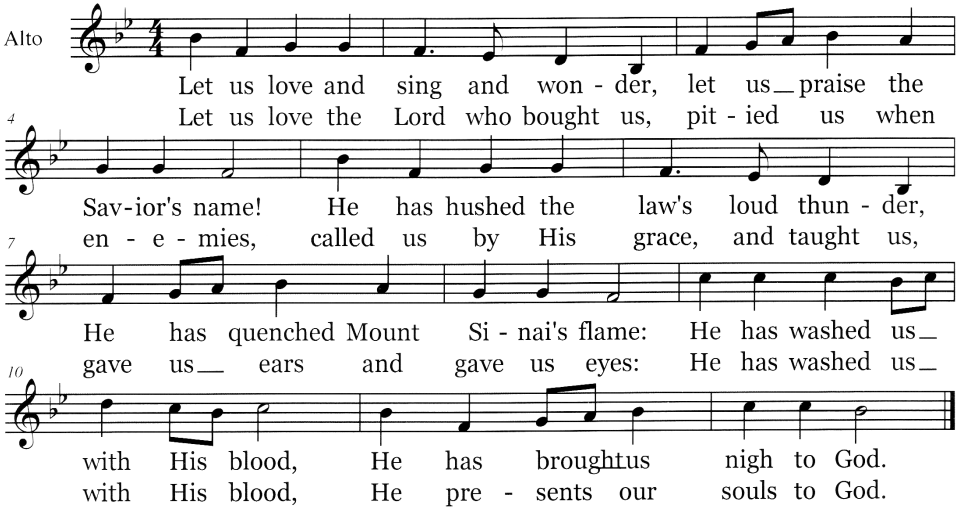
mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

<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* • Public Domain

Alto



Let us love and sing and won - der, let us\_ praise the  
Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied us when  
Sav-ior's name! He has hushed the law's loud thun - der,  
en - e - mies, called us by His grace, and taught us,  
He has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame: He has washed us\_  
gave us\_ ears and gave us eyes: He has washed us\_  
with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.  
with His blood, He pre - sents our souls to God.

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 21:23-32**

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Praise be to you, O Christ!*

## **SERMON • "Change Your Minds" (Rev. Eric Costa)**





THE UPPER ROOM



**CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 60**

How are you right with God?

*Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift with a believing heart. 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].)*

# At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Text: Robert Campbell • Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used by Permission

Tenor



At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
flow - ing from His pierc - ed side;  
Praise we Him whose love di - vine  
gives His sa - cred blood for wine,  
gives His bod - y for the feast,  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheaths his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed: paschal victim, paschal bread.  
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;  
Death is conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.  
Hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
Holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit ever be.

# Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkart • Music: Felix Mendelssohn • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God'. It consists of six staves of music in G major, with a key signature of one flat (F major). The time signature starts as 4/4, changes to 2/4 at measure 3, and returns to 4/4 at measure 6. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score ends with a double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

Now thank we all our God with  
O All may praise this and boun - teous to God God through the  
3 heart and hands and voic - es, Who  
all our life be near us, With  
Fa - ther now be giv - en, The  
6 won - drous things hath done, in whom His world re -  
e - ver joy - ful hearts and bles - sed peace to  
Son, and Him who reigns with them in high - est  
9 joic - es; Who, from our moth - ers'  
cheer us; And keep us in His  
heav - en, The one e - ter - nal  
12 arms, hath blessed us on our way With  
grace, and guide us when per - plexed. And  
God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore; For  
15 count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
free us from all ills, in this world and the next  
thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

## 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.

~

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

### Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study of the Book of Judges, at Longbottom Coffee.  
Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).
- 1:30pm Wed. women's study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women* (McLaughlin).  
Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com).
- 6:30am Thu. men's study of *Habits of the Household* (Earley), at the Starbucks on Walker & 158th.  
Contact: Joe Pope (pope.joe@gmail.com).
- 7pm Thu. women's study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women* (McLaughlin).  
Contact: Holly McGarry (hollykiewer8@gmail.com).

**Youth Group** • 6:30pm to 8pm Wednesdays. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us and to invite their friends. Contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com).

**Men's Breakfast** • 7:30am Sat., Dec. 2, at the Costa home (1890 SE Maple Street, Hillsboro). We'll share a potluck breakfast together. RSVP to Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month (Dec. 3) 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.

**Home Group** • Sun., Dec. 3, after Worship. We'll meet in someone's home for lunch and a discussion of Tim Keller's book, *Forgive* (chapters 5-7).

**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 (nwcnpnetwork.com)

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.