



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 3, 2023



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 134:1-2**

Come, bless Yahweh, all you servants of Yahweh,  
who stand by night in the house of Yahweh!  
Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless Yahweh!

# O Come All Ye Faithful

Latin Hymn: *Adeste Fideles* • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him Christ the Lord." The score includes bar numbers 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, and 20. The final measure of the piece is a double bar line.

O come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri -  
um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
Beth - - le - hem. Come and be - hold him  
born the King of an - gels; O  
come let us a - dore him, O come let us a -  
dore him, O come let us a - dore him  
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
(Chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
(Chorus)

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 2:6-7**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Righteous God, you alone are good.*

*There is something deeply wrong with us that we cannot make right.*

*When we look for life apart from you, we sin.*

*When we seek our own righteousness, we sin.*

*When we wish we could be good enough, we sin.*

*When we keep our distance from you by wallowing in guilt, we sin.*

*You alone are righteous, and you declare us righteous through faith in Jesus.*

*Jesus, give us eternal and abundant life with God in your name. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 2:13-14**

You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Proverbs 3:9-10**

Honor Yahweh with your wealth

and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

then your barns will be filled with plenty,

and your vats will be bursting with wine.

## **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.*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING • Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

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...

Holy Father, our great God, we praise you for your perfect holiness.

*We thank you for not sparing your own Son but giving him up for us all. We love you for adopting us as your children by your grace. We trust you to use every circumstance for our good as your people.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for taking our condemnation on yourself.

*We love you for the pity you showed in rescuing us from our sins. We rest in you because you are constantly interceding for us with the Father. We thank you that absolutely nothing can separate us from your love.*

Holy Spirit of God, we praise you for giving us new life and living with us constantly.

*We thank you for the war you wage against sin in our lives. We delight in the assurance you give us that we are God’s sons in Christ. We love you for searching our hearts and helping us in our weakness.*

Hear us as we pray in the words of the Lord himself, 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.*

# As With Gladness Men Of Old

Text: William Chatterton Dix • Music: Conrad Kocher • Public Domain

Tenor



As with gladness men of old did the guid- ing  
As with joy- ful steps they sped to that low- ly  
As they of- fered gifts most rare at that cra- dle  
star be- hold; as with joy they hailed its light,  
cra- dle bed; so there to may bend the knee be- fore  
rude and bare; so may we with ho- ly joy,  
lead- ing on- ward, beam- ing bright; so, most gra- cious  
him whom heav'n and earth a- dore; so may we with  
pure, and free from sin's al- loy, all our cost- liest  
God, may we ev- er- more be led to thee.  
will- ing feet ev- er seek thy mer- cy seat.  
treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n- ly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

# Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)

Music: Louis Bourgeois, *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David* (Geneva, 1551)

Public Domain

Tenor

8 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

3 Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.

5 To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!

7 Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING • Hosea 14:4-8

- 4 "I will heal their apostasy;  
I will love them freely,  
for my anger has turned from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;  
he shall blossom like the lily;  
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
- 6 his shoots shall spread out;  
his beauty shall be like the olive,  
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
- 7 They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;  
they shall flourish like the grain;  
they shall blossom like the vine;  
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
- 8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?  
It is I who answer and look after you.  
I am like an evergreen cypress;  
from me comes your fruit."

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SERMON • "Christmas Trees" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"Yahweh God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And Yahweh God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground Yahweh God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil..."

"Yahweh God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" (Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17)

"God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall." (1 Kings 4:29-33)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in Yahweh, whose trust is Yahweh. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:1-2)



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.<sup>1</sup> 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 catholic<sup>2</sup> 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].)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

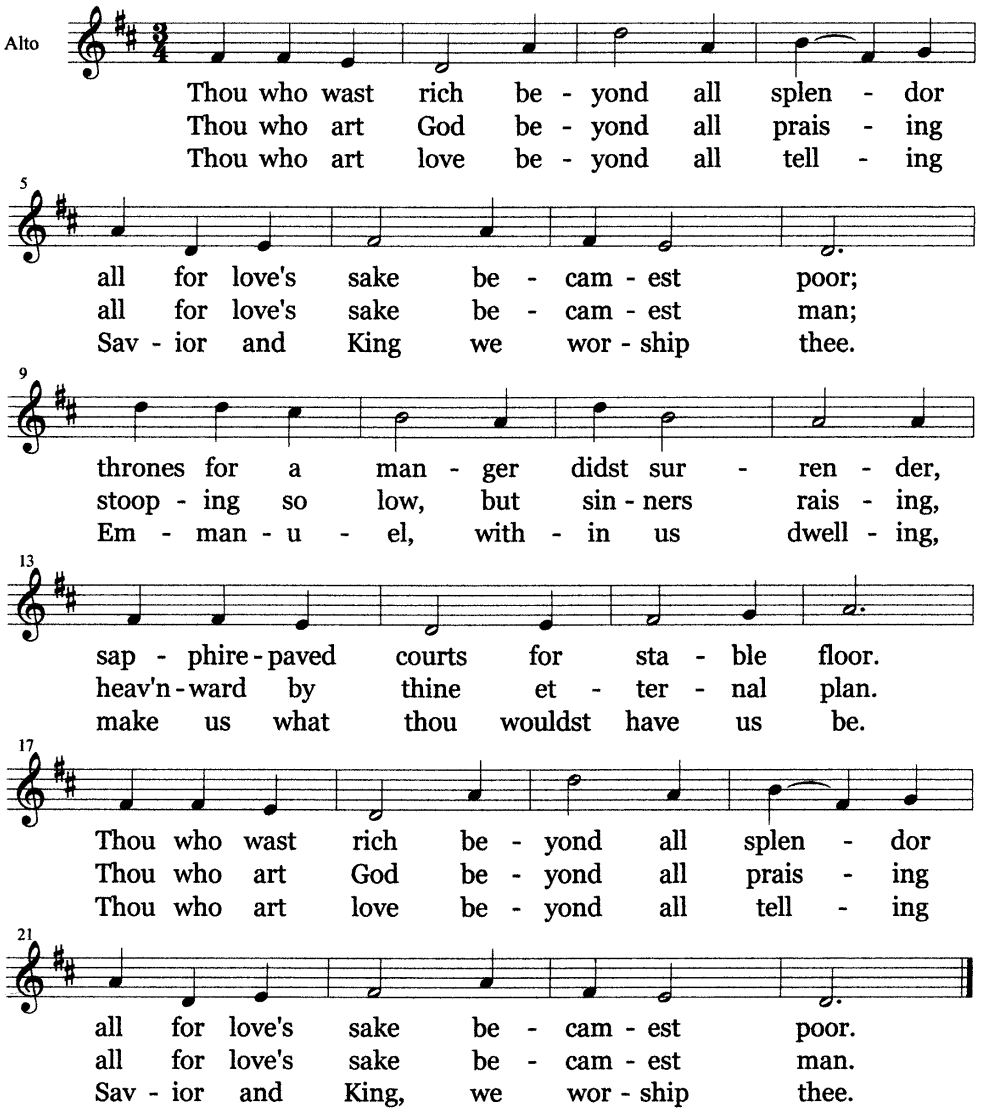
<sup>2</sup> Or, “universal.”



# Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Text: Frank Houghton • Music: French Carol Melody • Public Domain

Alto



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor  
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing  
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing

5  
all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;  
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;  
Sav - ior and King we wor - ship thee.

9  
thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,  
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,  
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

13  
sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.  
heav'n - ward by thine et - ter - nal plan.  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.

17  
Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor  
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing  
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing

21  
all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.  
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.  
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

# On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Text & Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582) • Transl. Jane M. Joseph (c. 1917)

Arr. Gustav Holst (c. 1917) • Public Domain

Tenor

8 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
His the doom our the mirth; when he came  
4 chil - dren to sing earth, to the Lord, Christ our King,  
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
7 born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther  
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would  
10 gave us. I - de - o, o, o,  
hide us. him. I - de - o, o, o,  
13 I - de - o, o, o, I - de - o,  
16 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

*(Chorus)*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, Heaven's king, born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*(Chorus)*

# Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, 14, and 18. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and  
na - ture sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

## BENEDICTION • Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~

**Mercy Sunday** • On the first Sunday of each month (today) 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](mailto:deacons@ascensionpc.org).

**Home Group** • Today after Worship, instead of Sunday School. We'll meet at the home of Joe & Cindy Pope (15953 SW Tuscany, Tigard) for lunch and a discussion of Tim Keller's book, *Forgive* (chapters 5-7). Chili will be provided—please bring a side or dessert to share.

### Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study of the Book of Judges, at Longbottom Coffee.  
Contact: Eric Costa ([rev.eric.costa@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pope.joe@gmail.com)).
- 7pm Thu. women's study of *Jesus through the Eyes of Women* (McLaughlin).  
Contact: Holly McGarry ([hollykiewer8@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fiby2020@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](mailto: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](http://pcanet.org))

Our Presbytery ([pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com](http://pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com))

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))

Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge ([serge.org](http://serge.org))

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

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[ascensionpc.org](http://ascensionpc.org)



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(Drop this contact card in the offering, or hand it to the Pastor.)

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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.