



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 31, 2023
THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS-DAY



THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 148:11-13

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
Let them praise the name of Yahweh,
for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Text: James Montgomery • Music: Henry Smart • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry, now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth: Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.' The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written on a single staff with a soprano clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.

(Chorus)

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; you have seen his natal star.

(Chorus)

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.

(Chorus)

Sinners, wrung with true repentance, doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you; break your chains.

(Chorus)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 7:23-25

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he lives always to make intercession for them.

CONFESSION OF SIN (from Psalm 25)

*Remember your mercy, O Yahweh, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.*

*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Yahweh!*

*For your name's sake, O Yahweh,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.*

*Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.*

*The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.*

*Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins. Amen.*

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 7:26-27

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

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 • Zechariah 2:10-11, 13

¹⁰ Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares Yahweh. ¹¹ And many nations shall join themselves to Yahweh in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you...

¹³ Be silent, all flesh, before Yahweh, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

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...

(from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer)

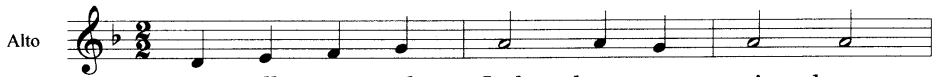
*Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon himself,
and to be born of a pure virgin.*

*Grant that we, being regenerate,
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who forever lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.*

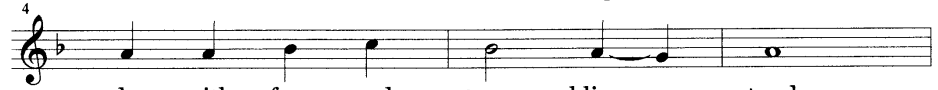
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century

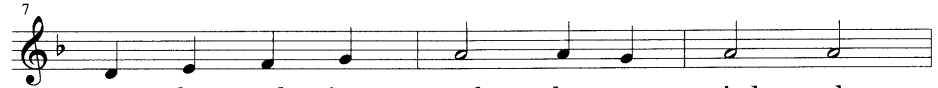
Music: French Melody • Public Domain



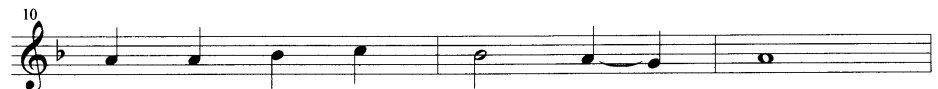
Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y,
Rank on rank the host of heav - en
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph;



and with fear and trem - bling stand;
as of old on earth He stood,
spreads its van - guard on the way,
cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
as the Light of light de - - scend - eth
veil their fac - es to the pre - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand,
in the bod - y and the blood,
from the realms of end - less day,
as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - - -
He will give to all the faith - - -
that the pow'rs of hell may van - - -
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - -

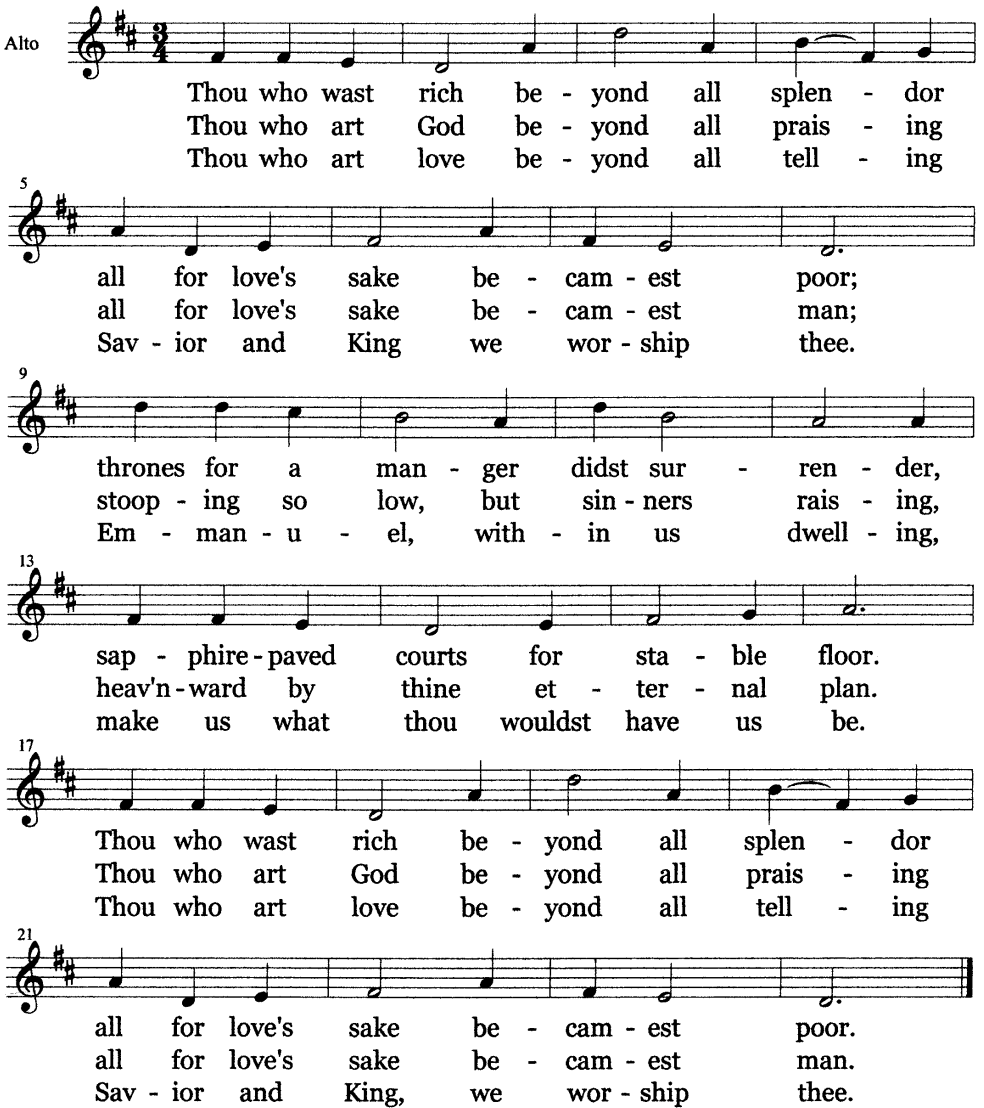


eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
ia. al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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.

GOSPEL READING • John 1:1-3, 14-18

- 1 In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that was made...
- 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth...
- 18 No one has ever seen God;
the only God, who is at the Father's side,
he has made him known.

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

SERMON • "The Incarnation of the Word" (Rev. Eric Costa)

"If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him...
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...
Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me." (John 14:7, 9, 11)

"He is the image of the invisible God." (Colossians 1:15)

"In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily." (Colossians 2:9)

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.
He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." (Hebrews 1:1-3)

"He became what we are in order to enable us to become what he is." (Irenaeus)

"What has not been assumed cannot be restored;
it is what is united with God that is saved." (Gregory Nazianzen)

"There is no hope at all except for the hope of the Incarnation." (Augustine)

"The Incarnation is a greater mystery than that of creation.
We cannot too often meditate on these things.
It is the life and soul of a Christian.
It is the marrow of the gospel.
It is the wonder of wonders.
We need not wonder at anything after this." (Richard Sibbes)

"'Twas much that man was made like God before,
But that God should be made like man, much more." (John Donne)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • Philippians 2:6-11

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ, being God, made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born a man. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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.

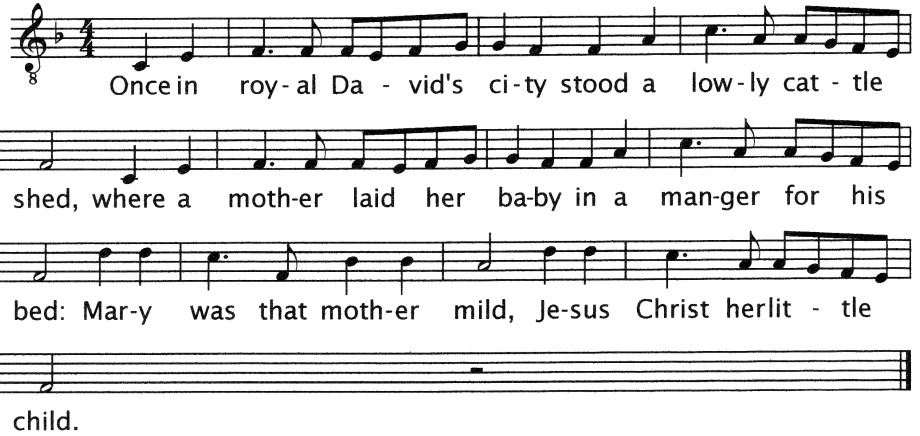
GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(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].)

Once In Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander • Music: Henry J. Gauntlett • Public Domain

Tenor



8

4

8

8

12

8

Once in roy-al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle
shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his
bed: Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle
child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall be around.

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

Traditional English Carol • Public Domain

Tenor

On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring; On
Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
hear the news - the an - gels bring: News of great
joy, news of great mirth,
news of our mer - ci - full - King's
birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before your grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore, Amen!"

All Glory Be to Christ

Lyrics: Dustin Kensrue, 2012

Tune: *Auld Lang Syne*, traditional Scottish folk song • Public Domain

1. All glory be to Christ our King! All Glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ.

Refrain:

*All glory be to Christ our King! All Glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ.*

2. His will be done, his kingdom come, on earth as is above,
Who is himself our daily bread, praise him the Lord of love.

Refrain:

*All glory be to Christ our King! All Glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ.*

3. Behold our God shall live with us, and be our steadfast light,
And we shall e'er his people be, all glory be to Christ.

Refrain:

*All glory be to Christ our King! All Glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ.*

BENEDICTION • Numbers 6:24-26

Yahweh bless you and keep you;
Yahweh make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
Yahweh lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

~

After Worship Today • There will be no Sunday School today.

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 (starting a new book on Jan. 10).
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).

Mercy Sunday • On the first Sunday of each month (Jan. 7) 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.

Men's Retreat • Feb. 23-25. Details forthcoming...

Contact: Rob Stevenson (robert.james.stevenson@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).

Email Newsletter • Visit ascensionpc.org/newsletter to subscribe to weekly announcements.

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PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (pcanet.org)

Our Presbytery (pacificnorthwestpresbytery.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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ascensionpc.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.