



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • JANUARY 21, 2024



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 150:1-2, 6 (*responsive*)

Praise Yahweh!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Let everything that has breath praise Yahweh!
Praise Yahweh!

Holy, Holy, Holy

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



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ Lord____ God Al - migh - ty!____
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ All the saints a - dore Thee,____
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ though the dark - ness hide Thee,____
5 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly!____ Lord____ God Al - migh - ty!____



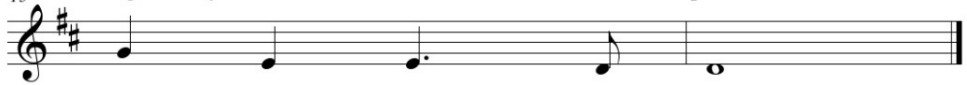
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not
8 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and



Thee. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!____ Mer - ci - ful and
sea; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be -
see; On - ly Thou art ho - ly;____ there is none be -
12 sea; Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;____ mer - ci - ful and



might - y!____ God in three per - sons,____
fore Thee,____ Who wert, and art, and____
side Thee,____ Per - fect in pow'r, in____
15 migh - ty!____ God in Three per - sons,____



bles - ed Trin - i - ty!
ev - er - more shalt be.
love, and pur - i - ty.
bles - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Hebrews 12:15a, 25a

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God... See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Hebrews 12:22-24

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

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 • Isaiah 5:1-7

- 1 Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
- 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
- 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
- 5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
- 6 I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
- 7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

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...

Jesus, remember us when you come in your kingdom,

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayers.

For all who carry out your ministries within your church,

We ask for grace and wisdom.

For those who don't yet believe the gospel,

We ask for your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask for your guidance.

For people who suffer and grieve,

We ask for your healing peace.

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ has spoken to us the word of reconciliation. We come to you now in the words he taught us, 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.

My Soul With Patience Waits

Text: Adapted from Nahum Tate / Psalm 130

Music: "Amazing Grace" (American Melody) • Public Domain

In deepest need I cry to you,
be merciful to me.
You, Lord, are feared, for you alone
forgive iniquity.

My soul with patience waits for you,
the ever-living Lord.
My hopes are on your promise built,
your never-failing Word.

My longing eyes look up to you
for your enlivening ray,
more duly than the morning watch
to spy the dawning day.

Let Israel trust in Yahweh God,
who boundless mercy shows,
the plenteous source and spring from which
eternal comfort flows.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Text: Thomas O. Chisolm

Music: William M. Runyan • ©1923/1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Tenor

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Father; there is no
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev-er wilt
be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mercies I see: all I have
need-ed thy hand hath pro - vided, Great is thy faith-ful-ness,
Lord, un - - - to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten-thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 21:33-46

“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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

SERMON • “God’s Vineyard” (Rev. Eric Costa)

“What is this act of refusal of God? At its heart, it’s a refusal to consent to the reality of their situation as those who owe everything to God... As covenant people, they owe their life to God’s giving, God’s work, God’s Word, God’s promise. In truth, Israel lives, not out of their own resources, but out of grace. And it is exactly that which Israel now denies.” (John Webster)

“Yahweh, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh rose against his people, until there was no remedy.” (2 Chronicles 36:15-16)

“Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.” (Nehemiah 9:30-31)



THE UPPER ROOM



CONFESSION OF FAITH • The Heidelberg Catechism, 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him. 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].)

O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis • Music: Thomas J. Williams • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: "O the deep deep love of Je - sus vast un - meas - ured bound - less free Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me Un - der - neath me all a - round me is the cur - rent of Thy love lead - ing on - ward lead - ing home - ward to Thy glo - rious rest a - bove." The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 26, and 30. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with occasional triplet patterns.

O the deep deep love of Je - sus
5 vast un - meas - ured bound - less free
9 Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
13 in its full - ness o - ver me
17 Un - der - neath me all a - round me
21 is the cur - rent of Thy love lead - ing
26 on - ward lead - ing home - ward to Thy
30 glo - rious rest a - bove.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore.
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore.
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own.
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from his throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best.
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me.
And it lifts me up to glory for it lifts me up to thee.

May Our God Be Known (Psalm 67)

Text & Music: © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough

1. May our God be known for his grace; May the
2. Let the na - tions sing and be glad for the

3 earth re-joice in his bless-ing. May our God be known for his
Lord is com ing with jus-tice. Let the na - tions sing and be

6 love, and the smile that shines from his face. May your
glad for our God is com - ing with peace. Now let

9 way be known on the earth so that all the na - tions will
all the ends of the earth fill with ho - ly won - der and

12 sing and re-joice in knowing the God of grace!
joy, for our God is com-ing to reign as king!

Chords: D, Em7, D/F#, G, D, Em7, D/F#, G, D, D/A, A, D, G/D

(Repeat Song)

BENEDICTION • Colossians 1:11-12

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

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

Finance Committee • The deacons are looking for help with specific weekly, monthly, and yearly financial processes. To learn more, contact Rob Stevenson (robert.james.stevenson@gmail.com).

Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study at Longbottom Coffee: the Book of Judges
Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)
- 1:30pm Wed. women's study: the Book of Ruth
Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com)
- 6:30am Thu. men's study at the Starbucks on Walker & 158th: *Habits of the Household* (Earley)
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).

Congregational Meeting • Sun., Feb. 4 after Worship (instead of Sunday School). All are welcome to join us for conversation about the 2024 budget and the process of officer nominations.

Men's Retreat • Feb. 23-25 on the Sandy River. The cost will be \$90. More 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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(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.