



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • APRIL 7, 2024



CALL TO WORSHIP • Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

In Christ Alone

Text & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend • ©2001 Thankyou Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ Alone'. It consists of a single melodic line in G major, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14 marked at the beginning of their respective lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The final line of the score ends with a double bar line.

In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful - ness of
3 There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the
light, my strength, — my song; — This Cor - ner -
God in help - less babe! — This gift of
5 world by dark - ness slain: — Then burst - ing
stone, this so - lid ground. firm through the
love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the
7 forth in glor - ious day up from the
fier - cest drought — and storm. — What heights of
ones he came — to save: — 'Till on that
9 grave He rose — a - gain! — And as He
love, what depths of peace — when fears are
cross as Je - sus died, — the wrath of
stands in vic - to - ry — sin's curse has
11 stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sa - tis - fied. — For ev - 'ry sin on Him was
14 lost its grip on me, — for I am His and He is
all, here in the love of Christ — I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ — I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood — of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;
'till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 34:18

Yahweh is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Lord, fearing you is the foundation of wisdom. We have been fools to fear anything or anyone else. You have told us not to be afraid, unless it is the fear of you. We have neglected this comfort, ignored your command, and disdained your majesty. We crucified you, just to be able to fear anything but you. "But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared." Teach us your great works and grant to us your Spirit of wisdom, so that we may know how to live with you, free of all worldly fears, to the glory of your holy and awesome name. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 34:22

Yahweh redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

OFFERING • 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 6:5-7

“I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.’”

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...

Through Jesus, whom we confess as Lord, we give thanks and praise to the Father, calling on him who is judge of all:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all the peoples of the world; that they may know you as the God of peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For nations, leaders and governments; that integrity may mark all their dealings, we pray to you O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For all who labor for righteousness; that your presence and help may give them courage, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For communities torn by dissension and strife; that your forgiveness may bring them healing, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved; that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For the Church, your household and family; that she may be firm in the confession of her hope, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

For our pastor, elders, and deacons, and for all who bear Christ's name; that their lives may proclaim your glory, we pray to you, O Lord:

Father, your kingdom come.

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep: make us perfect in all goodness to do your will and to be what you would have us be; through him to whom be glory forever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

According To Thy Gracious Word

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

Tenor

Ac - cord - ing to thy gra - cious word, in
Thy bod - y giv - en for my sake, my
Geth - sem - a - ne can I for - get, or
meek hu - mil - i - ty this will I do, my
bread from hea - ven shall be; thy tes - ta - men - tal
there thy con - flict see, thine ag - o - ny and
lov - ing Lord: I will re - mem - ber thee.
cup I take, and thus re - mem - ber thee.
blood - y sweat, and not re - mem - ber thee?
When to the cross I
And when these fai - ling
turn mine eyes and rest on Cal - va - ry, O
lips grow dumb, and mind and mem - o - ry flee, when
Lamb of God - my sac - ri - fice, I must re - mem - ber
thou shalt in thy king - dom come, then Lord, re - mem - ber
thee!
me!

Before The Throne Of God Above

Text: Charitie Lees Bancroft • Music: Vikki Cook • ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

Alto

Be-fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
strong and per-fect plea A great High Priest whose name is
love Who ev-er lives and pleads for me My name is gra-ven on His
hands My name is writ - ten on His heart I know that
while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
part No tongue can bid me thence de - part

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look to see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood,
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

GOSPEL READING • Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, ³ so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶ and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷ and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸ But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹ The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON • “Unburdened”

“If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.” (Ex. 23:5)

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 6:1)

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 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...” (Phil. 2:3-9)



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.¹ 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.”

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

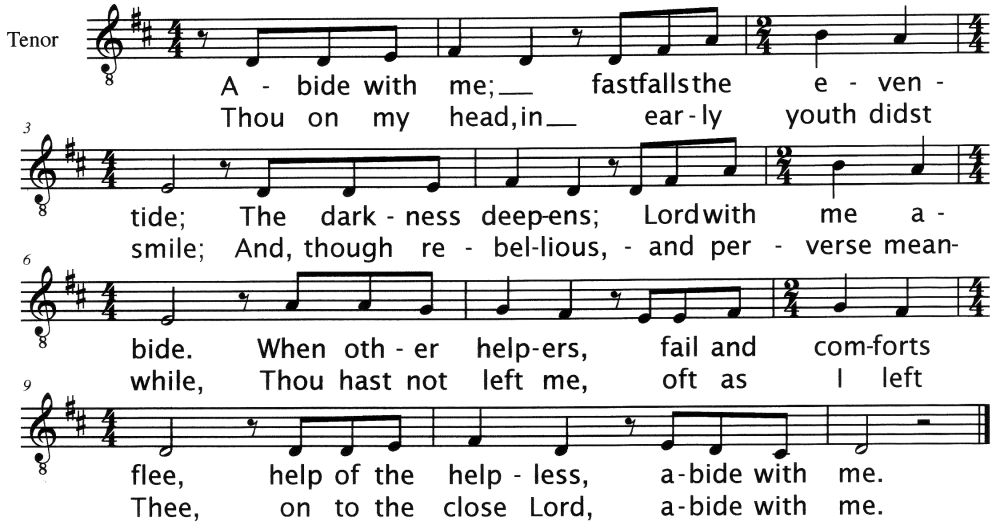
21 

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.

Abide With Me

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

Tenor



8 A - bide with me; fast fall the e - ven -
3 Thou on my head, in ear - ly youth didst
8 tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
6 smile; And, though re - bel - lious, - and per - verse mean -
8 bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
9 while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
8 flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
Thee, on to the close Lord, a - bide with me.

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.

BENEDICTION • Ephesians 1:2

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

~

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.

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

Midweek Studies

- 8:15am Tue. men's study at Longbottom Coffee: 1 Samuel
Contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)
- 1:30pm Wed. women's study: 1 Samuel
Contact: Cheryl Boden (wu.gardens@gmail.com)
- 7pm Thu. women's study of *Behold and Believe* (Doctor & Kimbrel)
Contact: Holly McGarry (hollykliewer8@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).

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)

Eden Community Church Plant in Aloha (edencommunity.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)

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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.