



ASCENSION  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • APRIL 14, 2024



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Luke 2:14**

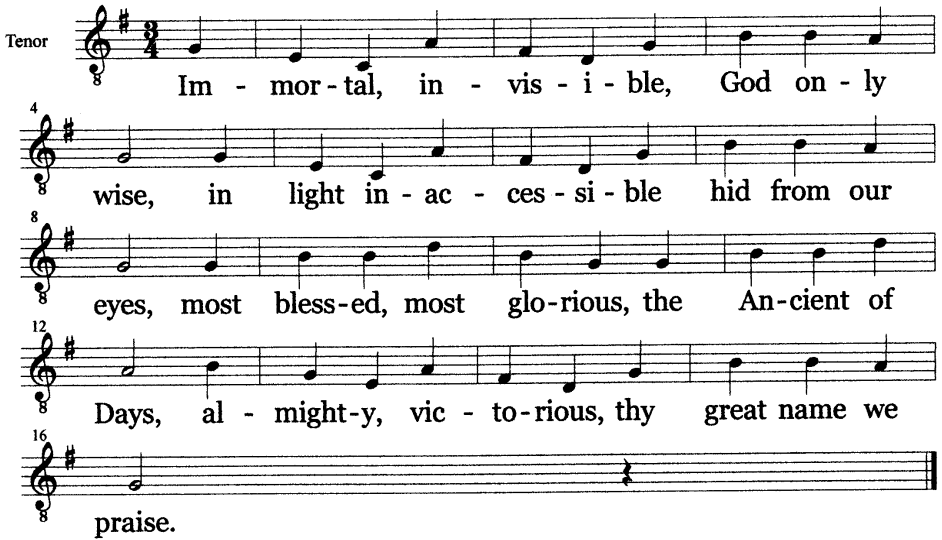
“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

# Immortal, Invisible

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh Melody • Public Domain

Tenor



Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly  
wise, in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our  
eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of  
Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we  
praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Psalm 103:8-10**

Yahweh is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*God, you are majestic in your freedom to love. You made us to share this glory with you, but we doubted you and became enslaved to sin. Left to ourselves, we are spiritually blind, deaf, and lame; we cannot change or help ourselves; we are dead to you in our rebellion. We certainly do not deserve your kindness. Yet you remain free to love the unlovely, which is your glory. Take pity on us, forgive us, and make us alive to you. Restore us to true freedom in communion with you. Your declaration of mercy in Christ Jesus the Lord is our only hope and prayer. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Psalm 103:11-13**

As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so Yahweh shows compassion to those who fear him.  
May the peace of Christ be with you.  
*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Exodus 23:19**

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of Yahweh your God.

## **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 18:29-32**

“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...

Almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amidst the conflicts of this world, the comfort of a perfect trust in you.

We lament the pride, selfishness, greed, and anger that lead to war among brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as war among nations.

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who are afflicted by war within themselves, by the conflicts of doubt, a rebellious will, and the darkness of despair:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

For all who suffer in body and circumstance, the sick, the poor, and the prisoner, that they would be touched by your compassion in their time of need:

*Save and help us, O Lord.*

And now as our Savior taught us, we pray:

*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.*

# It Is Well With My Soul

Text: Horatio G. Spafford • Music: Phillip P. Bliss • Public Domain

Tenor

8  
When peace, like a riv - er, at -  
Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though  
3 My sin, O the bliss of this  
8 tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like sea bil - lows  
tri - als should come, let this blest as - sur - ance con -  
7 glo - ri - ous thought! My sin, not in part, but the  
8 roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
11 whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
8 say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." It is  
tate, and has shed His own blood for my soul.  
15 more; Praise the Lord! It is well with my soul!  
8 well... with my soul; it is well, it is well with my  
21 soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
even so, it is well with my soul.

*(Chorus x2)*

# The Church's One Foundation

Text: Samuel J. Stone • Music: Samuel S. Wesley • Public Domain

Tenor



The church - 's one foun - da - tion is  
E - - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet  
Though with a scorn - ful won - der men  
Je - sus Christ, her Lord; she is His new cre - a - tion by  
one o'er all the earth, her char - ter of sal - va - tion one  
see her sore op - pressed, by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by  
wa - ter and the Word: from heav'n He came and  
Lord, one faith, one birth; one ho - ly name she  
her - e - sies dis - tressed, yet saints their watch are  
sought her to be His ho - ly bride; with  
bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, and  
keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?" and  
His own blood He bought her, and for her life he  
to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en -  
soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of  
died.  
dued.  
song.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

## GOSPEL READING • Matthew 23:13-39

A 13 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.<sup>1</sup>

B 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

C 16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ 17 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? 18 And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ 19 You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. 22 And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

D 23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

C 25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

B 27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

A 29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have

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<sup>1</sup> Only some manuscripts include a verse 14.

taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’<sup>31</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.<sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.<sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?<sup>34</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town,<sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.<sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!<sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate.<sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

## SERMON • “Jesus Laments”

“Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And Yahweh regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So Yahweh said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.” (Genesis 6:5-8)

“Hear and give ear; be not proud,  
for Yahweh has spoken.  
Give glory to Yahweh your God  
before he brings darkness,  
before your feet stumble  
on the twilight mountains,  
and while you look for light  
he turns it into gloom  
and makes it deep darkness.  
But if you will not listen,  
my soul will weep in secret for your pride;  
my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears,  
because Yahweh’s flock has been taken captive.” (Jeremiah 13:15-17)

“The seven woes Matthew records fall into a neat chiasmic pattern:

- A First woe (13)—failing to recognize Jesus as the Messiah
- B Second woe (15)—superficially zealous, yet doing more harm than good
- C Third woe (16-22)—misguided use of the Scripture
- D Fourth woe (23-24)—fundamental failure to discern the thrust of Scripture
- C’ Fifth woe (25-26)—misguided use of the Scripture
- B’ Sixth woe (27-28)—superficially zealous, yet doing more harm than good
- A’ Seventh woe (29-32)—heirs of those who have failed to recognize the prophets

What stands out is the centrality of rightly understanding the Scriptures.” (D. A. Carson)





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].)*

# Jesus Paid It All

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small;  
2. For noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim;  
3. And now com - plete in Him, My robe, His right - eous - ness,  
4. Lord, now in - deed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine a - lone,  
5. When from my dy - ing bed My ran - somed soul shall rise,  
6. And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,

Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."  
I'll wash my gar - ments white In the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.  
Close shel - tered 'neath His side, I am di - vine - ly blest.  
Can change the lep - er's spots, And melt the heart of stone.  
"Je - sus died my soul to save," Shall rend the vault - ed skies.  
I'll lay my tro - phies down, All down at Je - sus' feet.

*Refrain*

Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

# I Lay My Sins On Jesus

Text: Horatius Bonar (1843)

Music: Bartholomaeus Gesius (1605) • Public Domain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'I Lay My Sins On Jesus'. It consists of five staves of music in a 4/4 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score includes measure numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15. The lyrics are as follows:

I lay my sins \_\_\_\_\_ on Je - sus, the  
I lay my needs \_\_\_\_\_ on Je - sus; all  
I rest my soul \_\_\_\_\_ on Je - sus, this  
I long to be \_\_\_\_\_ like Je - sus, meek,  
3  
spot - less Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of God; he bears them all, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ful - ness dwells \_\_\_\_\_ in him; he heals all my \_\_\_\_\_ dis -  
wea - ry soul \_\_\_\_\_ of mine; his right hand me \_\_\_\_\_ em -  
lov - ing, low - ly, mild; I long to be \_\_\_\_\_ like  
6  
frees us from the ac - curs - ed load: I  
eas - es, he doth my soul \_\_\_\_\_ re - deem: I  
brac - es, I on his breast \_\_\_\_\_ re - cline. I  
9  
Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child: I  
bring my guilt \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus to wash \_\_\_\_\_ my crim - son  
lay my griefs \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, my bur - dens and \_\_\_\_\_ my  
love the name \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ the  
12  
long to be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus a - mid \_\_\_\_\_ the heav'n - ly  
stains white in his blood \_\_\_\_\_ most pre - cious, till  
cares; he from them all \_\_\_\_\_ re - leas - es, he  
Lord; like fra - grance on \_\_\_\_\_ the breez - es his  
15  
throng, to sing with saints \_\_\_\_\_ his prais - es, to  
not a spot \_\_\_\_\_ re - mains.  
all my sor - rows shares.  
name a - broad \_\_\_\_\_ is poured.  
learn the an - gels' song.

## BENEDICTION • 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love  
for one another and for 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 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 (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).

**Church Campout** • Aug. 23-25 at Nehalem Bay State Park.  
To register, 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](http://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.