



ASCENSION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • OCTOBER 27, 2024



THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 46:10-11 (*together*)

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

*Yahweh of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text & Music: Martin Luther (1529) • Public Domain

Alto

A might - y for - tress is our God, a
bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a -
mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For
still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his
craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el
hate, on earth is not his e - qual.

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual." The score ends with a double bar line.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:
the Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us pray...

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Acts 3:19-21

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”

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 • Acts 5:30-31

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING • Isaiah 53:11

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

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...

Our Father, you rule over the nations of the earth in justice and mercy.
Give wisdom to our President and representatives in Congress. Bring peace between the nations of the world. We plead for your mercy on our nation.

Holy Spirit, you are the Lord and giver of life.
Protect and defend Ascension Church and our sister congregations in and around Portland. Spread your gospel in this place. We ask for protection and prosperity for our city.

Jesus, you are full of compassion.
Relieve the suffering of the poor and oppressed in our city. Bring healing and joy to those who are ill or facing imminent death, and to those who care for them.

Our Father, you have set us here to cultivate and develop your creation.
Please give us delight and diligence in our callings. Provide for those seeking work. Make us a blessing to our city through our work.

And teach us to pray as you taught your disciples, 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.*

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.

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 is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The score consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 14 indicating the start of new lines of music. The lyrics are: 'In Christ a-lone my hope is found, He is my In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, ful-ness of 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 world by dark-ness slain: Then burst-ing stone, this so-lid ground. firm through the love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the forth in glor-ious day up from the fier-cest drought and storm. What heights of ones he came to save: 'Till on that 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 stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com-fort-er, my all in God was sa-tis-fied. For ev-'ry sin on Him was 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!

NEW TESTAMENT READING • 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON • “The Ministry of Reconciliation”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.” (Ephesians 2:13-17)

“We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.” (Galatians 2:16)

“God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things through Christ, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:20)



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.”

Behold The Lamb (*The Communion Hymn*)

Text & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, & Stuart Townend

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Fadd9/A G/B C Dm7 C/E G C/E Fadd9 C/G G7sus G7

1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us - and we re-mem - ber
2. The bo - dy of our Sav - iour Je - sus Christ, torn for you - eat and re-mem - ber;
3. The blood that clean - ses ev - ery stain of sin, shed for you - drink and re-mem - ber
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to res - pond - and to re-mem - ber

5 Fadd9/A G/B C Dm7 C/E G C/E Fadd9 G7sus G7 C C/E

the pro - mise made that all who come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross. So we
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one. So we
He drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. So we
our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as His bo - dy here on earth. As we

9 Fadd9 C/E Fma7 Gadd9 C/E Fadd9 C/E Fadd9 G C/E Fadd9

share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
share in His suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will come a - gain! And we'll join in the

14 C/E Fma7 G7sus G7 Fadd9/A Fma7 G7 Cadd9

bonds of peace a - round the tab - le of the King.
bonds of love a - round the tab - le of the King.
bonds of grace a - round the tab - le of the King.
feast of heaven a - round the tab - le of the King.

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Text: Common Book of Prayer

Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Used by Permission

Tenor

8
When morn-ing gilds the skies, — my
3 When sleep her peace de - nies, — my
8 heart a - wake-ing cries; — A - like at work and prayer,
6 si - lent spi - rit sighs; — When ev - il thoughts mo - lest, —
8 — on Christ I cast my cares; — May
9 — with this I shield my breast; May
8 Je - sus Christ be praised! May Je - sus Christ be praised!
12 Je - sus Christ be praised! May Je - sus Christ be praised!
8 — To God, the Word, on high, — the
15 — In Heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss, — the
8 host of an - gels cry. — May Je - sus Christ be praised!
18 love-liest strain is this! —
8 — May Je - sus Christ be praised! My
21 God, the Sav - ior reigns! May Je - sus Christ be praised! —
8

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find;
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my love, my song divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!
My God, the Savior, reigns! May Jesus Christ be praised!

BENEDICTION • 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

~

Community Setup & “Prefreshments” • 8:45am Sundays. Coffee/tea/donuts are available at 9:30.

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

Midweek Meetings:

- 8:15am Tue. Men’s Study - contact: Eric Costa (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com)
- 1:30pm Wed. Women’s Study - contact: Cheryl Boden (cheryl@westuniongardens.com)
- 6:30pm Wed. Youth Group - contact: Tim Sery (fiby2020@gmail.com)
- 9am Thu. Women’s Study - contact: Audrey Jaques (audreyelainejaques@gmail.com)

Ladies’ Retreat • November 1-3 at the Lakehouse in Lincoln City. Contact: Cheryl Boden (by text to 503-319-8037, or email to cheryl@westuniongardens.com).

Missions Committee Meeting • 6:30pm Thu., Nov. 7. RSVP to Bertha Kramlich.

Warm Springs Christmas Shoe Boxes • Collection Day will be Sun., Nov. 10. Contact Shirley Sauerwein for more information.

Men’s Retreat • Feb. 21-23 on the Sandy River. Contact: Rob Stevenson.

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)

Tomo Ito / Sacred Road Ministries at Warm Springs (sacredroadministries.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.