



# ASCENSION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PUBLIC WORSHIP • DECEMBER 22, 2024  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE WORD



**CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 68:32-33**

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,  
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

# Joy To The World

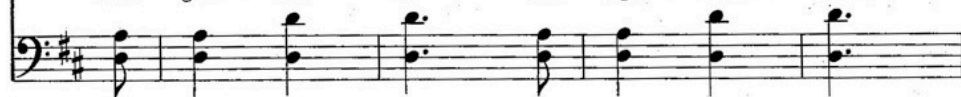
Text: Isaac Watts • Music: George Frideric Handel • Arr: Lowell Mason • Public Domain



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - ry heart pre - pare Him room,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing,      And heav'n and na - ture sing,  
Re - peat the sound - ing joy,      Re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
Far as the curse is found,      Far as the curse is found,  
And won - ders of His love,      And won - ders of His love,

1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,



1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

And heav'n and na -



And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
Far as, far as the curse is found.  
And won - ders, won - ders of His love.



ture sing,

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

He is risen!

*He is risen indeed!*

Let us pray...

## **CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN • Colossians 1:2**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Holy Trinity, your love is eternal.*

*You are love.*

*There is none like you.*

*We are not like you.*

*We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, or strength.*

*We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We sin and fall short of your glory.*

*In the holiness of your love, forgive us.*

*Cleanse us, glorify us, fill us with your love.*

*We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

(silent confession)

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS • Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

*And also with you!*

## **OFFERING • Acts 20:35**

"By working hard we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

## **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 • Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> Yahweh has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, Yahweh, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> Yahweh your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

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...

Lord, you built your church and promised to dwell with her forever.

*Bless all who guard and feed your sheep, those who shepherd souls, those who care for the poor, those who minister praise, as well as those who teach your Word, that, as you are lifted up, men and women will be drawn to you.*

Lord, likewise, you rule over all the nations of the earth.

*We pray for peace in every corner of the world: where there is war, where there is persecution, where there is starvation, where there is sickness, as well as every nation where there is suffering, that you will be glorified among the nations.*

Lord, out of the depths of eternity you moved in history in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*In him was life and the life was our light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Cause that light to shine ever brighter in us and through us.*

We pray as you taught us:

*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.*

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Hymn • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." The score includes measure numbers 4, 7, 11, 15, and 19. The final measure (19) ends with a double bar line.

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, and  
ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el, that  
mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of  
God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra -  
el.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry over the grave.  
*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*(Chorus)*

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
*(Chorus)*

# Cradled In A Manger Meanly

Text: George S. Rowe • Music: Joshua Leavitt, Christmas Lyre 1831 • Public Domain

or

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Cradled In A Manger Meanly'. It consists of seven systems of music, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The music is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score includes a 'or' at the beginning, suggesting an alternative starting point. The lyrics are as follows:

8  
Crad- led \_\_\_ in a \_\_\_ man- ger, mean \_\_\_ ly laid the \_\_\_ Son of \_\_\_  
Hap- py \_\_\_ all who \_\_\_ hear the mes - sage of His \_\_\_ com - ing \_\_\_  
Ev - il \_\_\_ things are \_\_\_ there be - fore \_\_\_ Thee in the \_\_\_ heart where \_\_\_  
And to \_\_\_ those who \_\_\_ nev - er list - ened to the \_\_\_ mes - sage \_\_\_

4  
8  
Man His head sleep - ing \_\_\_ His first \_\_\_ earth - ly slum - ber  
from a - bove. Hap - pier \_\_\_ still who - hail His com - ing  
they have fed. Wilt thou \_\_\_ pit - i - ful - ly en - ter  
of Thy birth, Who have \_\_\_ win - ter \_\_\_ but no Christ - mas

7  
8  
where the \_\_\_ ox - en \_\_\_ had been fed. Hap - py \_\_\_ were those  
And with \_\_\_ prais - es \_\_\_ greet His love. Bless - ed \_\_\_ Sav - ior,  
Son of \_\_\_ Man and \_\_\_ lay Thy head. En - ter \_\_\_ then, Oh  
bring - in \_\_\_ them Thy \_\_\_ peace on Earth. Send to \_\_\_ these the

10  
8  
shep - herds \_\_\_ list - ning to the \_\_\_ hol - y an - gel's \_\_\_ word  
Christ most \_\_\_ hol - y in a \_\_\_ man - ger Thou didn't \_\_\_ rest  
Christ most \_\_\_ hol - y, make a \_\_\_ Christ - mas in my \_\_\_ heart.  
joy - ful \_\_\_ tid - ings by all \_\_\_ peo - ple in each \_\_\_ home.

13  
8  
hap - py \_\_\_ they with - in that sta - ble  
Cans't Thou \_\_\_ stoop a - - gain, yet low - er  
Make a \_\_\_ heav - en \_\_\_ of my man - ger;  
Be there \_\_\_ heard the \_\_\_ Christ - mas an - them:

15  
8  
wor ship - ping their \_\_\_ in - fant Lord.  
And a - bide with - - in my breast?  
it is \_\_\_ heav - en \_\_\_ where Thou art.  
Peace on \_\_\_ Earth good \_\_\_ will to all!

## **GOSPEL READING • Matthew 11:28-30**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

## **SERMON • “Rest”**

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” (Proverbs 12:25)

“Good news refreshes the bones.” (Proverbs 15:30)

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22)

“I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.” (Jeremiah 31:25)

“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” (Matthew 12:8)

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17)

“There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

“Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

“The dominant note left ringing in our ears after reading the Gospels, the most vivid and arresting element of the portrait, is the way the Holy Son of God moves toward, touches, heals, embraces, and forgives those who least deserve it.” (D. Ortlund)

“We come to church to learn how to rest in Jesus together.” (N. Jaques)



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.\* 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 catholic† 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].)

---

\* 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.

† Or, “universal.”



## What Child Is This?

Text: William Dix • Music: *Greensleeves* (16th Century English Carol) • Public Domain

Alto

The musical score is written for an Alto voice part in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: 'What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of Mar - y.'

What child is this who laid to rest on Mar-y's lap is  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
Christ the King whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud the babe the son of  
Mar - y.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

# Gloria In The Highest

Text: Ambrose (4<sup>th</sup> Century), Martin Luther (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

Music: Matthew H. Curl • Used By Permission

Tenor

8 Sa - vior of the na - tions come,  
Not by hu - man pow'r or seed  
Mar - y then was found with child,  
Christ laid down his maj - es - ty,  
3 show your - self the vir - gin's son. Fill with won - der  
did the wom - an's womb con - ceive; on - ly by the  
still a vir - gin chaste and mild. God had fa - vored  
6 passed through dark Geth - sem - a - ne. Though he left his  
8 all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.  
Spir - it's breath was the Word of God made flesh.  
her with grace to re - ceive the Prince of Peace.  
9 Fa - ther's home, Christ now sits on God's own throne.  
8 Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_ Glo - ri - a! \_\_\_\_  
15  
8 In the high - - - est!

Since the star at Bethlehem brought new light to earth again,  
may our faith shine bright each day; faithful God, keep sin away.

Christ in glory, intercede for your creature's suff'ring need.

Let your resurrecting pow'r soon complete the vict'ry hour.

*(Chorus)*

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing, praise to Christ our newborn King!

With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come!

*(Chorus x2)*

# Hosanna In The Highest

Text: The Book of Common Prayer

Music: Benjamin Wilkinson • Public Domain

Tenor

8 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho - san - na to the  
O Sav - ior with pro - tect - ing care, a - bide in this thy  
4 Be ho - nor, praise, and glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and  
8 liv - ing word! Where we thy par - ting prom - ise claim, as -  
house of prayer; and make our se - cret soul to be, a  
7 all in heav'n, to God the Fa - ther and the Son, and  
8 semb - led in thy sa - cred name; to Christ, cre - a - tor  
tem - ple pure and ho - ly; be hon - or praise and  
10 God the Spi - rit three in one, be hon - or praise and  
8 Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heav'n, Ho - san - nas sing! Ho - san - na!  
glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n.  
14 glo - ry giv'n, by all on earth and all in heav'n!  
8 \_ Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est! \_

To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;  
a child born meek and lowly, the infant King of Glory!  
To earth you came a tiny babe, to earth you came our souls to save;  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in the highest!

## BENEDICTION • 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself  
give you peace at all times in every way.  
The Lord be with you all.

~

**After Worship Today** • There will be no Sunday School or Sermon Discussion today.

**Midweek Meetings** • See you in January!

**Christmas Eve Service** • 7pm Tue., Dec. 24.

**Men's Retreat** • Feb. 28 - Mar. 2 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?* To schedule a shepherding meeting, contact Eric (rev.eric.costa@gmail.com).

**Email Newsletter** • Visit [ascensionpc.org/newsletter](http://ascensionpc.org/newsletter) to subscribe to weekly announcements.

•

### PRAY FOR THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Our Denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America ([pcanet.org](http://pcanet.org))

Our Presbytery ([pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com](http://pacificnorthwestpresbytery.com))

Tomo Ito / Sacred Road Ministries at Warm Springs ([sacredroadministries.org](http://sacredroadministries.org))

Brian & Faith Janssen, Missionaries in Taiwan with OMF ([omf.org/asia/taiwan](http://omf.org/asia/taiwan))

Betsy L., Missionary in Spain with Serge ([serge.org](http://serge.org))

Love INC, Hillsboro ([loveincgreaterhillsboro.org](http://loveincgreaterhillsboro.org))

Unless otherwise indicated\*, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (\*We regularly print God's personal name, "Yahweh," instead of using the traditional small-caps placeholder "LORD" as the ESV does.) Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.

[ascensionpc.org](http://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.