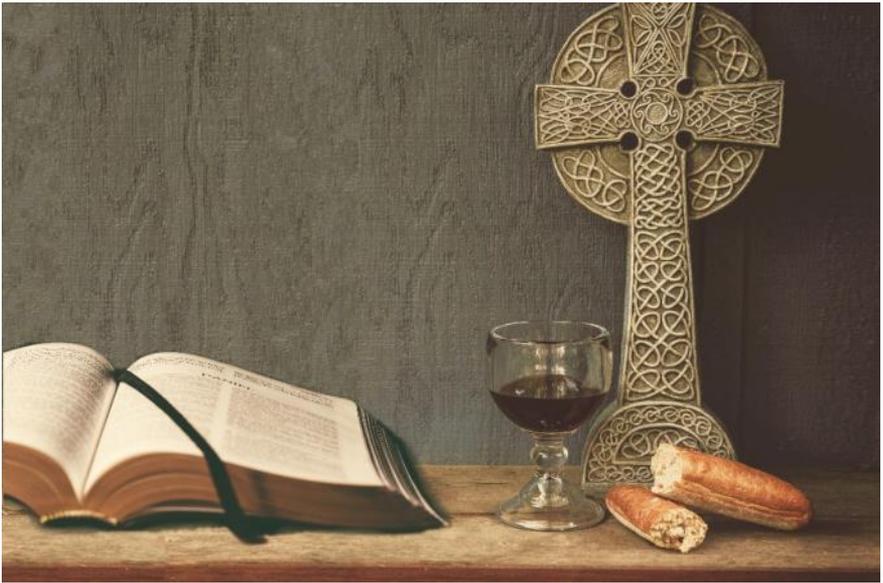




Ascension PCA

October 11, 2020



A community of worshipping, maturing,
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father,
by the power of His Spirit,
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.

A word about our liturgy

The elements and sequence that make up our worship service (the liturgy) is the way we tell ourselves, one another, and all in this place, the grand story of the Triune God: the story of God pursuing a people despite their wanderings and forgetfulness, and shaping them into His people for His glory.



QUIETING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The fuel of worship
is a true vision of the greatness of God;
the fire that makes the fuel burn white hot
is the quickening of the Holy Spirit;
the furnace made alive and warm by the flame of truth
is our renewed spirit;
and the resulting heat of our affections
is powerful worship,
pushing its way out in confessions, longings,
acclamations, tears, songs, shouts, bowed heads,
lifted hands, and obedient lives.

*Father, grant to us Your Spirit,
that we might truly see You,
that we might long for You from renewed hearts,
all to the praise of Your glory and grace!*

~ John Piper

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*We gather at the invitation of God through His Word.
He speaks first, revealing Himself to us,
and we respond with one voice in joy and thanksgiving!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 12:22–24, 28–29

M: 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.

**P: Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving
a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable
worship, with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
And Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
Of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,
And You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
Of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
Yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of,
Fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call,
I repent of my prideful disposition;
Where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
© 2014 Scot Family Reunion Songs (Admin. by Scot Family Reunion, LLC)

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
Through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
Ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.**

Words from Old German spiritual song (1623); tr. by Martin L. Seltz (1909-1967)
Music by Nathan Partain © 2009, 2003, UBP

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1

¹ The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ² to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out His hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

¹¹ And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.” ¹² Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.”

¹³ The word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁵ For behold, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, declares the LORD, and they shall come, and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls all around and against all the cities of Judah. ¹⁶ And I will declare My judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking Me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands. ¹⁷ But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸ And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”

GOD CLEANSSES US

We gather each week as sinners in constant need of His mercy. The corporate confession of sin acknowledges this and invites honest expression before God.

However, God isn't silent as we cry out to Him —

He assures us that His grace is bigger than our sin.

God's forgiveness is for all those who humble themselves before Him in Christ Jesus.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

modified from the Valley of Vision

**P: O LORD, we hang on You;
we see, believe, live,
when Your will, not ours, is done;**

**We can plead nothing in ourselves
in regard to any worthiness and grace,
in regard to Your providence and promises,
but only Your good pleasure.**

**Show us what sins hide You from us,
and eclipse Your love;
Help us to humble ourselves for past evils,
to be resolved to walk with more care.**

**O God, we bid farewell to our sin
by clinging to the cross of Christ,
Hiding in His wounds
and sheltering in His side.**

Hear us now, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Before the Throne of God Above

**Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to 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.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997)
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GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Holy Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a crucial means of growing and comforting God's people and awakening people to new faith in Jesus.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

1 Timothy 3:14–15 & 4:6

2 Timothy 2:1–2; Titus 2:15

¹⁴ You I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"These Things"
Jeff Capshaw

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.**

**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.**

**O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866)
Music by Brian Moss (1996)
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GOD COMMUNES WITH US

The Lord's Supper is a meal for the family of God, given by Jesus the night before His death to be celebrated until His return. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of King, and spiritually nourishes us for today as we eat and drink in faith.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Romans 3:21–25a, 5:1

**P: But now the righteousness of God
has been manifested apart from the law,
although the Law and the prophets
bear witness to it —
the righteousness of God
through faith in Jesus Christ
for all who believe.**

**For there is no distinction:
for all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God,
and are justified by His grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
who God put forward as a propitiation
by His blood, to be received by faith.**

**Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MEDITATION

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us —
and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.***

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Torn for you —
eat and remember;
The wounds that heal,
the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.***

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you —
drink and remember;
He drained death's cup
that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.**

***So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.***

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond —
and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.**

***As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.***

Words and music by Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend
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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.**

BENEDICTION

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

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