



Ascension PCA

October 25, 2020

THE BOOK OF
Galatians



**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

*O Maker and Upholder of all things,
Day and night are Yours;
they are also mine from You —
the night to rid me of the cares of the day,
to refresh my weary body,
to renew my natural strength;
the day to summon me to new activities,
to give me opportunity to glorify You,
to serve my generation,
to acquire knowledge, holiness, eternal life.
But one day above all days is made especially
for Your honor and my improvement;
Your house is mine, but I am unworthy to meet You there,
and am unfit for spiritual service.
When I enter it I come before You as a sinner,
condemned by conscience and Your Word.
For I am weak in the body and in the wilderness,
ignorant, weak, in danger, and in need of Your aid.
But I am encouraged by Your all-sufficient grace.
Let me go to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You,
knowing that You will come to me and give me peace.
Let me before the broken elements,
emblems of Your dying love,
cry to You with broken heart for grace and forgiveness.
I long for that blissful communion of Your people
in Your eternal house in the perfect kingdom.
These are they that follow the Lamb;
May I be of their company!*

~ from the Valley of Vision *(edited slightly)*

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

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD,
the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger,
abounding in love and faithfulness,
maintaining love to thousands,
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us new birth
into a living hope.**

M: So as His people we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
He has demonstrated the riches
of His mercy to us.
Praise be to the merciful God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

...

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).
Music by Oliver Holden (1793)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

...

**Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field
and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words & music by Fernando Ortega & Mac Powell
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Oh How Good It Is

**Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity.**

**Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh how good it is
On this journey we share,
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.**

**For the weak find strength,
The afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.**

...

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another,
Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one,
We all share in the love
Of the Son, with the Father,
And the Spirit.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words & music by Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Ross Holmes | Stuart Townend
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OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 2:20–37

Mr. Austin Clement

- 20 “For long ago I broke your yoke
and burst your bonds;
but you said, ‘I will not serve.’
Yes, on every high hill
and under every green tree
you bowed down like a whore.
- 21 Yet I planted you a choice vine,
wholly of pure seed.
How then have you turned degenerate
and become a wild vine?

...

- 22 Though you wash yourself with lye
and use much soap,
the stain of your guilt is still before Me,
declares the LORD God.
- 23 How can you say, 'I am not unclean,
I have not gone after the Baals'?
Look at your way in the valley;
know what you have done —
a restless young camel running here and there,
24 a wild donkey used to the wilderness,
in her heat sniffing the wind!
Who can restrain her lust?
None who seek her need weary themselves;
in her month they will find her.
- 25 Keep your feet from going unshod
and your throat from thirst.
But you said, 'It is hopeless,
for I have loved foreigners,
and after them I will go.'
- 26 "As a thief is shamed when caught,
so the house of Israel shall be shamed:
they, their kings, their officials,
their priests, and their prophets,
27 who say to a tree, 'You are my father,'
and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.'
For they have turned their back to Me,
and not their face.
But in the time of their trouble they say,
'Arise and save us!'
- 28 But where are your gods
that you made for yourself?
Let them arise, if they can save you,
in your time of trouble;
for as many as your cities
are your gods, O Judah.
- 29 "Why do you contend with Me?
You have all transgressed against Me,
declares the LORD.

...

30 In vain have I struck your children;
they took no correction;
your own sword devoured your prophets
like a ravening lion.

31 And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD.
Have I been a wilderness to Israel,
or a land of thick darkness?
Why then do My people say, 'We are free,
we will come no more to You?'

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments,
or a bride her attire?
Yet My people have forgotten Me
days without number.

33 "How well you direct your course
to seek love!
So that even to wicked women
you have taught your ways.

34 Also on your skirts is found
the lifeblood of the guiltless poor;
you did not find them breaking in.
Yet in spite of all these things

35 you say, 'I am innocent;
surely His anger has turned from me.'
Behold, I will bring you to judgment
for saying, 'I have not sinned.'

36 How much you go about,
changing your way!
You shall be put to shame by Egypt
as you were put to shame by Assyria.

37 From it too you will come away
with your hands on your head,
for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust,
and you will not prosper by them."

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

Psalm 130:1-6

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

O LORD, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O LORD, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness,

that You may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in His Word I hope;

my soul waits for the LORD

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

~ Please use this time for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Revelation 1:5-6

M: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us

from our sins by His blood,

He has made us to be a kingdom

and priests to serve His God and Father.

P: To Him be glory and power for ever and ever!

Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
In darkest places I will call,
Incline Your ear to me anew,
And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
How could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,
Take courage in His power to save,
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.**

*I will wait for You,
I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.*

**Now He has come to make a way,
And God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.**

*I will wait for You,
I will wait for You
Through the storm
and through the night.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You,
For Your love is my delight.*

...

***I will wait for You,
I will wait for You
Through the storm
and through the night.
I will wait for You,
surely wait for You,
For Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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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

Galatians 1:6–24

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

...

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when He who had set me apart before I was born and who called me by His grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

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

"No Small Matter "

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Thy Mercy, My God

**Thy mercy, my God,
Is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart
And the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone,
From the first to the last,
Has won my affection,
And bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy
I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me
To utter despair;
But through Thy free goodness,
My spirits revive,
And He that first made me
Still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more
Than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel
Its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness,
I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise
Of the mercy I've found.**

...

**Great Father of mercies,
Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love
Of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit,
Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon,
And righteousness mine.**

Words by John Stocker. Music by Sandra McCracken
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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

Pastor Ed Volz

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

from the Westminster Standards

**P: I believe there is but one true and living God;
that there are three persons in the Godhead:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
and that these three are one God,
the same in substance, equal in power and glory;**

**I believe God has foreordained
whatever comes to pass;
that God made all things of nothing,
by the word of His power,
in the space of six days,
and all very good;
and that God preserves and governs
all His creatures and all their actions.**

...

**I believe our first parents,
though created in knowledge,
righteousness, and holiness,
sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit;
and that their fall brought mankind
into an estate of sin and misery;**

**I believe God determined,
out of His mere good pleasure,
to deliver His elect out of the estate
of sin and misery,
and to bring them into an estate of salvation
by a Redeemer;**

**I believe the only Redeemer of God's elect
is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I believe Christ as our Redeemer underwent
the miseries of this life,
the wrath of God,
the cursed death of the cross, and burial;
He rose again from the dead on the third day,
ascended up into heaven,
sits at the right hand of God the Father,
and is coming to judge the world at the last day.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MEDITATION

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last!**

...

**Other refuge have I none;
I helpless hang on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, are all I want;
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.**

**Just and holy is Thy name,
I'm all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.**

**Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
For all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). PUBLIC DOMAIN.
Music by Greg Thompson ©2000 Greg Thompson Music

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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.