



**Ascension** PCA

**November 8, 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

*Remember these three looks at Jesus,*

***backward, upward, forward;***

*and make use of them every day.*

*The first is the secret of peace of conscience:*

*no peace unless we look **backward***

*at the cross of Christ!*

*The second is the secret of real daily strength*

*and comfort in our walk with God:*

*little solid comfort unless we look **upward***

*to Christ's intercession!*

*The third is the secret of bright and cheerful hope*

*in a dark world:*

*no bright prospect unless we look **forward***

*to Christ coming again!*

***Backward, upward, forward:***

*these are the three ways in which we should look at Jesus.*

*The person that looks at the cross is a wise person;*

*the person that looks at the cross and the intercession also,  
is wiser still;*

*but they that look at all three,*

*the cross, the intercession, and the coming of Jesus,  
they are wisest of all.*

~ J.C. Ryle

# 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

*1 Corinthians 1:13; Psalm 91:1; Psalm 37:7*

M: Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.  
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

...

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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and CityAlight Music

## *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

**God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.  
Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will.**

...

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.**

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

**Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.**

**His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.**

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

***Holy, Holy,  
Oh mysteries beyond,  
Glory, Glory  
Be to our Sovereign God.***

Words by William Cowper and Matt Papa. Music by Matt Papa.  
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# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Jeremiah 4:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> "If you return, O Israel,  
declares the LORD,  
to Me you should return.  
If you remove your detestable things from  
My presence,  
and do not waver,  
<sup>2</sup> and if you swear, 'As the LORD lives,'  
in truth, in justice, and in righteousness,  
Then nations shall bless themselves in Him,  
and in Him shall they glory."

<sup>3</sup> For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah  
and Jerusalem:

"Break up your fallow ground,  
And sow not among thorns.  
<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD;  
remove the foreskin of your hearts,  
O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem;  
lest My wrath go forth like fire,  
and burn with none to quench it,  
because of the evil of your deeds."

<sup>5</sup> Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say,

"Blow the trumpet through the land;  
cry aloud and say,  
'Assemble, and let us go  
into the fortified cities!'  
<sup>6</sup> Raise a standard toward Zion,  
flee for safety, stay not,  
for I bring disaster from the north,  
and great destruction.  
<sup>7</sup> A lion has gone up from His thicket,  
a destroyer of nations has set out;  
He has gone out from His place  
to make your land a waste;  
your cities will be ruins  
without inhabitant.

...

8 For this put on sackcloth,  
lament and wail,  
For the fierce anger of the LORD  
has not turned back from us.”

9 “In that day, declares the LORD, courage shall fail  
both king and officials. The priests shall be appalled  
and the prophets astounded.”<sup>10</sup> Then I said,  
“Ah, LORD GOD, surely You have utterly deceived  
this people and Jerusalem, saying, ‘It shall be well  
with you,’ whereas the sword has reached their very life.”

<sup>11</sup> At that time it will be said to this people and to  
Jerusalem, “A hot wind from the bare heights in  
the desert toward the daughter of My people, not  
to winnow or cleanse,<sup>12</sup> a wind too full for this comes  
for Me. Now it is I who speak in judgment upon them.”

<sup>13</sup> Behold, He comes up like clouds;  
His chariots like the whirlwind;  
His horses are swifter than eagles —  
woe to us, for we are ruined!

<sup>14</sup> O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil,  
that you may be saved.  
How long shall your wicked thoughts  
lodge within you?

<sup>15</sup> For a voice declares from Dan  
and proclaims trouble from Mount Ephraim.

<sup>16</sup> Warn the nations that He is coming;  
announce to Jerusalem,  
“Besiegers come from a distant land;  
they shout against the cities of Judah.

<sup>17</sup> Like keepers of a field are they against her  
all around,  
because she has rebelled against Me,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> Your ways and your deeds  
have brought this upon you.  
This is your doom, and it is bitter;  
it has reached your very heart.”

# 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

*adapted from Isaiah 59*

**M:** Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,  
nor His ear too dull to hear.  
But your iniquities have separated you  
from your God;  
your sins have hidden His face from you,  
so that He will not hear.

**P: We confess...**

**our feet rush into sin  
and our thoughts are evil thoughts;  
ruin and destruction mark our ways.  
The way of peace we do not know;  
there is no justice in our paths.  
So justice is far from us,  
and righteousness does not reach us.  
Our offenses are many in your sight,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our offenses are ever with us,  
and we acknowledge our iniquities.**

**Still, out of Your grace we have this  
everlasting hope:**

**“The Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”  
declares the LORD,**

**O Lord, we repent and cry out for our Redeemer.**

*~ Please use this time for silent confession.*

# ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 3:18

M: For Christ also suffered once for sins,  
the Righteous for the unrighteous  
that He might bring us to God.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*He Will Hold Me Fast*

**When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.***

...

**For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied,  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life;  
He will hold me fast;  
'Till our faith is turned to sight,  
When He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.***

***He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918) PUBLIC DOMAIN

Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker

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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 2:15–21*

<sup>15</sup> We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; <sup>16</sup> yet 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.

...

<sup>17</sup> But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup> For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. <sup>19</sup> For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

## 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

*"Dying to Live"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know?  
Could my tears forever flow?  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925)  
Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)  
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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

*adapted from Ephesians 2:1–10*

**P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins,  
in which we used to live when we followed  
the ways of this world,  
of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,  
the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.**

**All of us lived among them at one time,  
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature  
and following its desires and thoughts.  
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**

**But because of His great love for us,  
God, who is rich in mercy,  
made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in transgressions.  
It is by grace we have been saved.**

**And God raised us up with Christ  
and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms  
in Christ Jesus,  
in order that in the coming ages  
He might show the incomparable riches  
of His grace,  
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

**For it is by grace we have been saved,  
through faith —  
and this not from ourselves,  
it is the gift of God —**

**It is not by works.  
None of us can boast.  
For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## SONG OF MEDITATION

### *I Come By the Blood*

**You are the perfect and righteous God  
Whose presence bears no sin.  
You bid me come to Your holy place;  
How can I enter in,  
When Your presence bears no sin?**

**Through Him who poured out His life for me,  
The atoning Lamb of God.  
Through Him and His work alone,  
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood,  
I come by the cross,  
Where Your mercy flows  
From hands pierced for me.*

*For I dare not stand  
On my righteousness.  
My every hope rests  
On what Christ has done.  
And I come by the blood.*

**You are the high and exalted King  
The One the angels fear;  
So far above me in every way,  
Lord, how can I draw near  
To the One the angels fear?**

**Through Him who laid down His life for me,  
And ascended to your side.  
Through Him, through Jesus alone  
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood,  
I come by the cross,  
Where Your mercy flows  
From hands pierced for me.*

...

***For I dare not stand  
On my righteousness.  
My every hope rests  
On what Christ has done.  
And I come by the blood.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook  
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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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Scripture text from

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# **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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