



Ascension PCA

December 27, 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

*It might have been just someone else's story;
Some chosen people get a special king,
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.*

*But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.*

*They did not know His name but still they sought Him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought Him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.*

*Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice...
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.*

~ *The Magi* by Malcolm Guite

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

Psalm 89:1,5,15-16

**P: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known
Your faithfulness to all generations.
Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,
who exult in Your name all the day
and in Your righteousness are exalted.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 89

**Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders,
Angels sing Your faithfulness.
For none matches God in heaven,
Who's like God in heaven's throng?
God is feared among the angels,
He's more awesome than they all.
Lord, O God of hosts, who's like You?
Mighty God, You're bound with truth.**

**You rule o'er the sea's proud surging;
When its waves rise, bid them still.
You rule nations, they do Your bidding;
Your strong arm disperses foes.
Yours the heavens, earth's bounds also;
You have founded all the world.
North and south You have created;
All creation sings Your praise.**

...

**You've an arm that's great in power;
Your strong hand is all supreme.
Your rule's based on right and justice,
Cov'nant love and truth are Yours.
They are happy who acclaim You;
In Your favor, Lord, they walk.
In Your Name rejoicing ever;
In Your righteousness raised high.**

Words from *The Trinity Psalter*; © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications
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Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

...

**With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love
Rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 2:11-14

Elder Chris Sledge

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people,
¹² training us to renounce ungodliness
and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled,
upright, and godly lives in the present age,
¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing
of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all
lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for
His own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

**P: O Merciful God, who once used a star
to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused,
easily distracted, and lose our way.
We fail to follow Your Word and walk in Your ways
and instead try to go our own way.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Restore to us a love for the light of Your Word.
Lead us to the Christ
so that we may follow His way to You. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

In these moments, we confess our personal sins to God so that we may take hold of the forgiveness won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 130:3-4,7

**M: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O LORD, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

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

Ruth 4

¹ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."

⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance."

⁶ Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.

¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman."

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Perez:
Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram
fathered Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon,
Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz,
Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse,
and Jesse fathered David.

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

"Our Pursuing Redeemer"

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
And hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

...

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook
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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

Rev. Ed Volz

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**P: 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 Ghost,
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 sits on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

SONG OF MEDITATION

The Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.**

...

Oh, to see the pain
written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought,
ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

*This the pow'r, of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

*This the pow'r, of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

*This the pow'r, of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!*

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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PRAYER

GOD SENDS US

*We end by receiving God's promises to us as His people.
He will be with us as we serve Him in this world,
to the end of all time.*

BENEDICTION

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.**



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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.