



Ascension PCA

January 17, 2021

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

*...we are made in and for community  
and our understanding of ourselves is intimately tied  
to our relationship with others...  
for humanity to be the image of God,  
it must embody beautiful community —  
unity in diversity, diversity in unity.*

*~ Irwyn Ince Jr.*

# 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 67:3-5*

**P: Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for You judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon the earth.  
Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Praise the Lord Ye Heavens*

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him;  
Praise Him angels, in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;  
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.**

**Praise the Lord for He hath spoken;  
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance He hath made.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

...

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;  
Never shall His promise fail;  
God hath made His saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.**

***All creation join the song of praise.  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

***Glory, glory  
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory  
All glory to You, Lord!***

***Glory, glory  
All glory to You, Lord!***

**Praise the God of our salvation!  
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation  
Laud and magnify His Name.**

***All creation join the song of praise,  
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,  
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy  
All of our days!***

***And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall  
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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.***

# OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

## *Jeremiah 6:1-15*

- 1 Flee for safety, O people of Benjamin,  
from the midst of Jerusalem!  
Blow the trumpet in Tekoa,  
and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem,  
for disaster looms out of the north,  
and great destruction.
- 2 The lovely and delicately bred I will destroy,  
the daughter of Zion.
- 3 Shepherds with their flocks shall come against her;  
they shall pitch their tents around her;  
they shall pasture, each in his place.
- 4 "Prepare war against her;  
arise, and let us attack at noon!  
Woe to us, for the day declines,  
for the shadows of evening lengthen!
- 5 Arise, and let us attack by night  
and destroy her palaces!"
- 6 For thus says the LORD of hosts:  
"Cut down her trees;  
cast up a siege mound against Jerusalem.  
This is the city that must be punished;  
there is nothing but oppression within her.
- 7 As a well keeps its water fresh,  
so she keeps fresh her evil;  
violence and destruction are heard within her;  
sickness and wounds are ever before Me.
- 8 Be warned, O Jerusalem,  
lest I turn from you in disgust,  
lest I make you a desolation,  
an uninhabited land."
- 9 Thus says the LORD of hosts:  
"They shall glean thoroughly as a vine  
the remnant of Israel;  
like a grape gatherer pass your hand again  
over its branches."

...

- 10 To whom shall I speak and give warning,  
that they may hear?  
Behold, their ears are uncircumcised,  
they cannot listen;  
behold, the word of the LORD is to them  
an object of scorn;  
they take no pleasure in it.
- 11 Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD;  
I am weary of holding it in.  
"Pour it out upon the children in the street,  
and upon the gatherings of young men, also;  
both husband and wife shall be taken,  
the elderly and the very aged.
- 12 Their houses shall be turned over to others,  
their fields and wives together,  
for I will stretch out My hand  
against the inhabitants of the land,"  
declares the LORD.
- 13 "For from the least to the greatest of them,  
Everyone is greedy for unjust gain;  
and from prophet to priest,  
everyone deals falsely.
- 14 They have healed the wound of My people lightly,  
saying, 'Peace, peace,'  
when there is no peace.
- 15 Were they ashamed when they committed  
abomination?  
No, they were not at all ashamed;  
they did not know how to blush.  
Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;  
at the time that I punish them,  
they shall be overthrown,"  
says the LORD.

# 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: Almighty and Merciful God,**

**LORD, forgive us for not living what we believe.**

**LORD, forgive us for living for ourselves.**

**LORD, forgive us for not displaying You to a watching world.**

**Father, grant us the grace**

**to love You with all that we are**

**and love our neighbor as ourselves.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to fix our eyes on Jesus**

**and renew our hearts by Your grace.**

**In Jesus' name we ask, 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

*Isaiah 61:10a*

**M: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for He has clothed me  
with the garments of salvation;  
He has covered me  
with the robe of righteousness.**

# 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

*Galatians 3:25 – 4:7*

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>1</sup> I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



# PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### *This Is My Father's World*

**This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas —  
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world:  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;  
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied  
And earth and heaven be one.**

**This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied  
And earth and heaven be one.**

Words by Maltbie D. Babcock (1901)  
Traditional English melody; arr. by Franklin L. Sheppard (1915)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# 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.*

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed; Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54*

**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.**

...

Q: What do you believe concerning  
“the holy catholic church”?

**A: I believe that the Son of God  
through His Spirit and Word,  
out of the entire human race,  
from the beginning of the world to its end,  
gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself  
a community chosen for eternal life  
and united in true faith.  
And of this community I am and always will be  
a living member.**

## 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.*

## PRAYER

## SONG OF MEDITATION

*I Delight*

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

...

**As a bridegroom adorns  
his head like a priest,  
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

## **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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