



April 18, 2021



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 time is short. The fashion of this world is passing away.
A few more sicknesses, and all will be over.
A few more funerals, and our own funeral will take place.
A few more storms and tossings, and we shall be safe in harbor.
We travel towards a world where there is no more sickness,
where parting, and pain, and crying, and mourning,
are done with for evermore.*

*Heaven is becoming every year more full, and earth more empty.
The friends ahead are becoming more numerous than the friends astern.
"Yet a little time and He that shall come will come,
and will not tarry." (Heb. 10:37)
In His presence shall be fullness of joy.
Christ shall wipe away all tears from His people's eyes.
The last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death.
But he shall be destroyed. Death himself shall one day die. (Rev. 20:14)*

*In the meantime let us live the life of faith in the Son of God.
Let us lean all our weight on Christ,
and rejoice in the thought that He lives for evermore.
Yes: blessed be God! Christ lives, though we may die.
Christ lives, though friends and families are carried to the grave.
He lives who abolished death,
and brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel.*

~ 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

from Colossians 2:13–14; Psalm 32:11

M: Grace and peace to you who were dead in your sins,
for God has made you alive with Christ
and forgiven all your sins.
Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing all you who are now upright in heart!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

ending in the Lord's Prayer

P: **Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**
**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil**
**for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever,**
Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE

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!

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

Words by Carl Gustav Boberg; translated by Stuart K. Hine (1949)
Swedish Folk Melody, arr. by Stuart K. Kline (1949)
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GOD CLEANSES 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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

James 1:2–18

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one.¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: God of love,
it is Your will that we should love You
with heart, soul, mind, strength,
and our neighbor as ourselves,
but we are not sufficient for these things.**

**We confess that our affections
continually turn away from You:
from purity to lust,
from freedom to slavery,
from compassion to indifference,
from fullness to emptiness.**

Have mercy on us.

**We confess that our compassion and concern
for our neighbor is often overshadowed
by our preoccupation with ourselves.**

Have mercy on us.

**Order our lives by Your holy Word,
and make Your commandments
the joy of our hearts.**

**Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus,
that we may shine before the world
to Your glory.**

Amen.

SILENT CONFESSON 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

Romans 8:35,37–39

M: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors though Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height or depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
In pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
And sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
When some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.*

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days.
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
For no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
For just one reason,
Christ was crucified.**

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down,
Through the precious blood of Christ.***

Words & music by Mark Altrogge
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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

Psalm 90

- 1 LORD, You have been our dwelling place
 in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
 from everlasting to everlasting You are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
 and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in Your sight
 are but as yesterday when it is past,
 or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood;
 they are like a dream,
 like grass that is renewed in the morning:
 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
 in the evening it fades and withers.

7 For we are brought to an end by Your anger;
 by Your wrath we are dismayed.
8 You have set our iniquities before You,
 Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.
9 For all our days pass away under Your wrath;
 we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 The years of our life are seventy,
 or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
 they are soon gone, and we fly away.
11 Who considers the power of Your anger,
 and Your wrath according to the fear of You?
12 So teach us to number our days
 that we may get a heart of wisdom.
13 Return, O LORD! How long?
 Have pity on Your servants!
14 Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,
 that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15 Make us glad for as many days
as You have afflicted us,
 and for as many years as we have seen evil.
16 Let Your work be shown to Your servants,
 and Your glorious power to their children.
17 Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
 and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

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

“A Trembling Heart”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES

SONG OF RESPONSE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

Words by Isaac Watts, *The Psalms of David* (1719)
Music by William Croft (1708)
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.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1

**P: I believe that I am not my own,
but belong —
body and soul,
in life and in death —
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for my sins
with His precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him,
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.**

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 | MEDITATION

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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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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