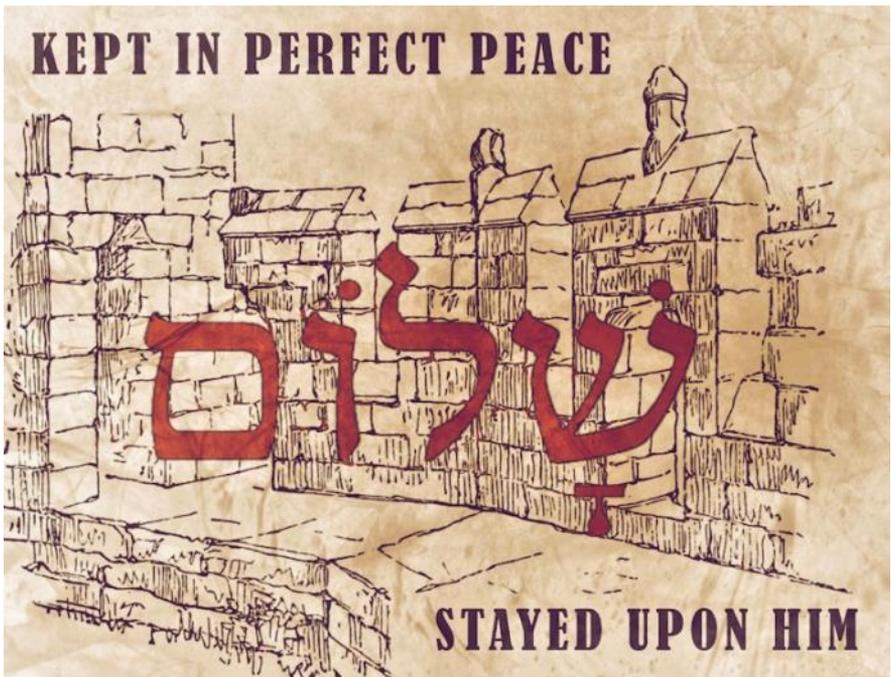




**Ascension** PCA

**May 23, 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

Consider your state.  
You are a pardoned sinner,  
not under the law but under grace,  
freely, fully saved from the guilt of all your sins.  
There is none to condemn, God having justified you.  
He sees you in His Son,  
washed you in His blood,  
clothed you in His righteousness,  
and He embraces Him and you,  
the head and the members,  
with the same affection.

~ *William Romaine*

# 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 99:1-5, 9*

M: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth quake!  
The LORD is great in Zion;  
He is exalted over all the peoples.  
Let them praise Your great and awesome name!

**P: Holy is He!**

M: The King in His might loves justice.  
You have established equity;  
You have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.  
Exalt the LORD our God;  
worship at His footstool!

**P: Holy is He!...**

**[Let us] exalt the LORD our God,  
and worship at His holy mountain;  
for the LORD our God is holy!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

***Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.***

The sun comes up,  
it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass,  
and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.*

You're rich in love,  
and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness,  
I will keep on singing:  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.*

And on that day  
when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing  
Your praise unending:  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.  
I'll worship Your holy name.*

Words and music by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin  
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worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*

**Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea.  
Cherubim and seraphim  
falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art,  
and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy;  
there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r,  
in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
blessed Trinity!  
God in three Persons,  
blessed Trinity!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826)  
Music by John B. Dykes (1861)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# 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.*

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

### *John 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.

<sup>12</sup> After this He went down to Capernaum, with His mother and His brothers and His disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

# CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Father in Heaven,  
if Your mercy had bounds,  
where would our refuge from just wrath be?  
But Your love in Christ is without measure.**

**Therefore, we present ourselves to You  
with sins of omission and commission,**

**against You, our Father,  
against You, adorable Redeemer,  
against You and Your strivings, Holy Spirit,  
against the dictates of our consciences,  
against the precepts of Your Word,  
against our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Enter not into judgment with us,  
for we plead no righteousness of our own,  
but bless You that the finished work of Jesus  
needs no addition from our doings,  
and is satisfaction for all our sins.  
In that Name we plead, 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.*

# THE GOOD NEWS

*2 Corinthians 5:20b,21*

**M: We implore you on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.  
For our sake He made Him to be sin  
who knew no sin,  
so that in Him we might become  
the righteousness of God.**

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *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. PUBLIC DOMAIN  
Music by Sandra McCracken  
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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

*Isaiah 26:1–12*

<sup>1</sup> In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city;  
He sets up salvation  
as walls and bulwarks.

<sup>2</sup> Open the gates,  
that the righteous nation that keeps faith  
may enter in.

<sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on You,  
because he trusts in You.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever,  
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

<sup>5</sup> For He has humbled  
the inhabitants of the height,  
the lofty city.

He lays it low, lays it low to the ground,  
casts it to the dust.

<sup>6</sup> The foot tramples it,  
the feet of the poor,  
the steps of the needy.”

<sup>7</sup> The path of the righteous is level;  
You make level the way of the righteous.

<sup>8</sup> In the path of Your judgments,  
O LORD, we wait for You;  
Your name and remembrance  
are the desire of our soul.

<sup>9</sup> My soul yearns for You in the night;  
my spirit within me earnestly seeks You.  
For when Your judgments are in the earth,  
the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

- <sup>10</sup> If favor is shown to the wicked,  
he does not learn righteousness;  
in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly  
and does not see the majesty of the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, Your hand is lifted up,  
But they do not see it.  
Let them see Your zeal for Your people,  
and be ashamed.  
Let the fire for Your adversaries consume them.
- <sup>12</sup> O LORD, You will ordain peace for us,  
for You have indeed done for us all our works.

## 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

*“Peace on Guard”*

*Reverend Barry McWilliams*

## PRAYER

### SERMON NOTES

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# SONG OF RESPONSE

## *It Is Well with My Soul*

**When peace, like a river,  
Attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

*It is well* (it is well),  
*With my soul* (with my soul);  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet,  
Though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control:  
That Christ has regarded  
My helpless estate,  
And has shed His own blood for my soul.**

*It is well* (it is well),  
*With my soul* (with my soul);  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**My sin — O the bliss  
Of this glorious thought! —  
My sin — not in part, but the whole —  
Is nailed to the cross,  
And I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*It is well* (it is well),  
*With my soul* (with my soul);  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**And Lord, haste the day  
When my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound,  
And the Lord shall descend;  
Even so, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well* (it is well),  
*With my soul* (with my soul);  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

# 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

*John 6:27–29, 35*

M: Do not work for food that spoils,  
but for food that endures to eternal life,  
which the Son of Man will give you.  
On Him, God the Father has placed  
His seal of approval.

**P: What must we do to do the work God requires?**

M: The work of God is this:  
To believe in the One He has sent.  
Jesus is the Bread of Life.  
He who comes to Him will never go hungry,  
and he who believes in Him will never go thirsty.

*Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1*

M: What is your only comfort in life and death?

**P: 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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