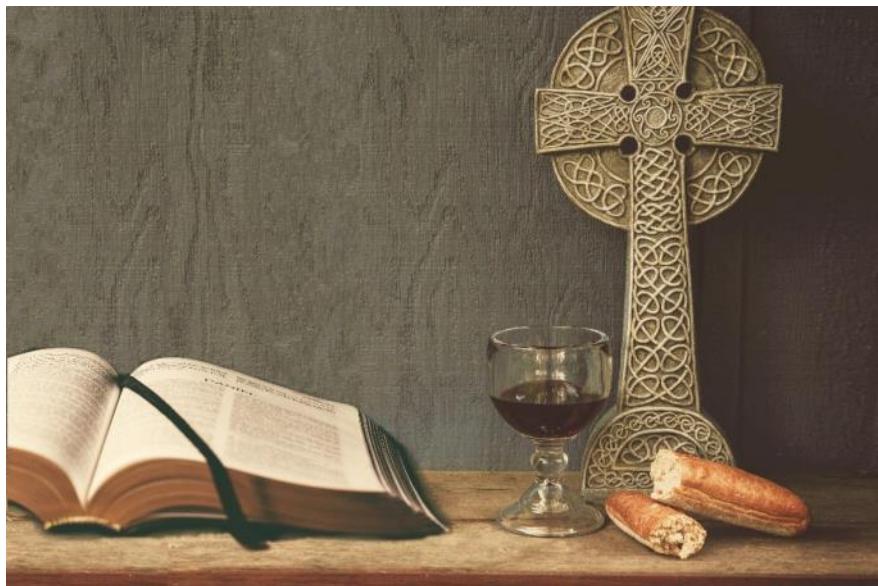




October 17, 2021



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

*Almighty One! I bend in dust before Thee;
even so veiled cherubs bend;
In calm and still devotion I adore Thee,
all-wise, all-present Friend!
Thou to the earth its emerald robes hast given,
or curtained it in snow;
And the bright sun, and the soft moon in heaven,
before Thy presence bow.

Thou Power sublime! Whose throne is firmly seated
on stars and glowing suns;
O, could I praise Thee, could my soul, elated,
waft Thee seraphic tones,
Had I the lyres of angels, could I bring Thee
and offering worthy Thee,
In what bright notes of glory would I sing Thee,
blest notes of ecstasy!

Eternity! Eternity! how solemn,
how terrible the sound!
Here leaning on Thy promises, a column
of strength, may I be found,
O, let my heart be ever Thine, while beating,
as when twill cease to beat!
Be Thou my portion, till that awful meeting
when I my God shall greet!*

~ Sir John Bowring

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

Exodus 15:11,2

**P: Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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
Music by John Wyeth (1813). PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Tell Out, My Soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961); ©1961 Hope Publishing Company
Music by Holly Dutton (2001); © 2001 Dutton, Holly

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

Luke 11:1-13

¹ Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² And He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
³ Give us each day our daily bread,
⁴ and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves,' ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

CORPORATE CONFESION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father, teach us to love prayer.

**Help us to live our lives before You,
in public and private, at church and at home,
each prayer and each moment perfumed
with the incense of Christ's atoning blood.**

We are invited by Your promises to come to You with all our burdens and desires. Draw us by the power of Your Spirit, or our hearts and minds will wander carelessly from thought to thought, and our anxieties will rule over us.

We seldom want to pray, and when we do our petitions are laced with self-importance and mixed with sinful motives. But we celebrate Jesus and plead His righteousness to cover our iniquities, and rejoice that His obedience satisfies Your justice in full.

Holy Spirit, by Your power, may the throne of grace become the pleasure ground of our souls. There may we know the delight of our Savior's love, the relief of repentance and reconciliation, the privilege of sonship. Ignite our hearts with joy before You, quicken our deadness with thanksgiving, and strengthen us to cling to You, love You, and obey You.

May we grow to be persistent in prayer, until Christ is the pulse of our hearts, the spokesman of our lips, and the center of all our hopes and longings. In His great Name we pray, 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hebrews 10:19-22

M: We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer, and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
rescue the souls of men?
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

**Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words & music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse
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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 84

- 1 How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,
ever singing Your praise! Selah
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
- 9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of Your anointed!
- 10 For a day in Your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does He withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
- 12 O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in You!

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

“Springs in the Desert”

Pastor Ed Volz

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES:

SONG OF RESPONSE

Let Your Kingdom Come

**Your glorious cause, O God,
engages our hearts.**

**May Jesus Christ be known
wherever we are.**

**We ask not for ourselves,
but for Your renown.**

**The cross has saved us so we pray:
"Your kingdom come!"**

***Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.***

***Let Your song be heard
Everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come!***

**Give us Your strength, O God,
and courage to speak.**

**Perform Your wondrous deeds
through those who are weak.**

**Lord, use us as You want,
whatever the test;**

**By grace we'll preach Your Gospel
'till our dying breath.**

***Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.***

***Let Your song be heard
Everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come!***

Words and music by Bob Kauflin
© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise

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.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

M: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus was sent
by the Father into the world,
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**

**We confess that He was condemned to die
that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.**

**We proclaim that He is risen
to make us right with God
and that He shall come again
in the glory of His new creation.**

This we do now and until He comes again.

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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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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