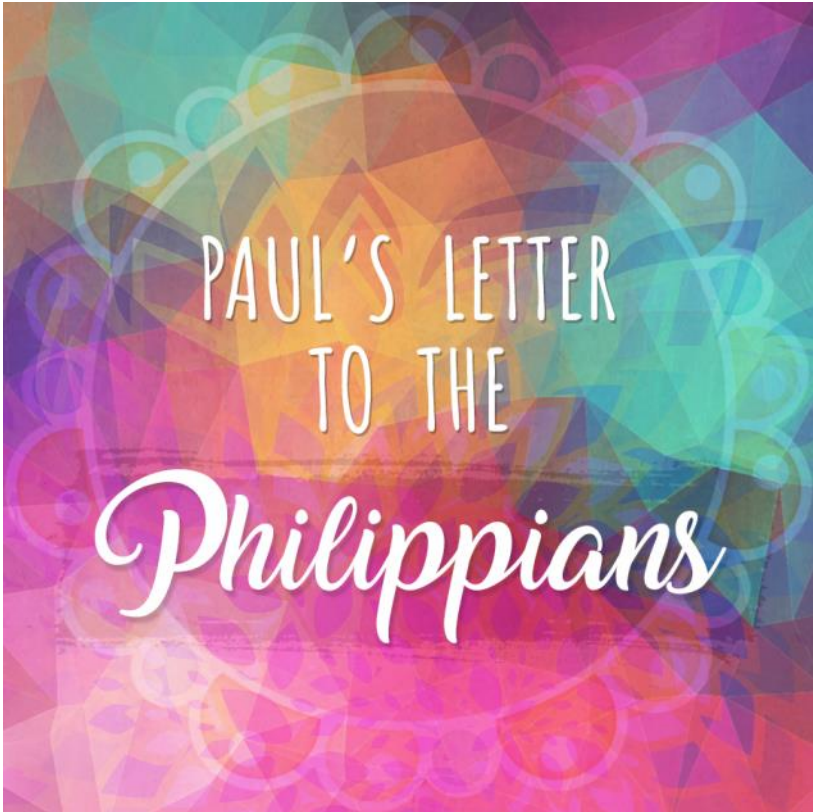




Ascension PCA

January 23, 2022



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

Precious Jesus, let me go to the place where Your people pray.

Let me hear Your voice, inviting us to be with You.

I will follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

I will follow You to the place where Your people gather.

I will wait to see my God and King in His sanctuary.

My soul thirsts for You, as a deer thirsts for cooling streams.

*And when I join Your people in the place where we pray,
may Your grace and Holy Spirit fire my soul with a foretaste
of that glorious assembly that keeps an eternal Sabbath above
— the place where the everlasting praises of God
and of the Lamb will grip and fill my raptured soul
with joy unspeakable and glory to all eternity. Amen.*

~ Robert Hawker

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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 through Christ
and forgiven all your sins.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing all you who are now upright in heart!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
And Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
Of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,
And You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
Of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
Yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of,
Fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call,
I repent of my prideful disposition;
Where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall

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All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
*O praise Him! Alleluia!***

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
Come and rejoice in His great love,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin,
Case all your burdens now on Him,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi, translated by William Henry Draper (1926).

Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.

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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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 17:1-18

¹ “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars, ² while their children remember their altars and their Asherim, beside every green tree and on the high hills, ³ on the mountains in the open country. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your high places for sin throughout all your territory. ⁴ You shall loosen your hand from your heritage that I gave to you, and I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in My anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever.”

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

- 9 The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?
- 10 "I the LORD search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds."
- 11 Like the partridge that gathers a brood
that she did not hatch,
so is he who gets riches but not by justice;
in the midst of his days they will leave him,
and at his end he will be a fool.
- 12 A glorious throne set on high from the beginning
is the place of our sanctuary.
- 13 O LORD, the hope of Israel,
all who forsake You shall be put to shame;
those who turn away from You shall be written
in the earth,
for they have forsaken the LORD,
the fountain of living water.
- 14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall be saved,
for You are my praise.
- 15 Behold, they say to me,
"Where is the word of the LORD?
Let it come!"
- 16 I have not run away from being Your shepherd,
nor have I desired the day of sickness.
You know what came out of my lips;
it was before Your face.
- 17 Be not a terror to me;
You are my refuge in the day of disaster.
- 18 Let those be put to shame who persecute me,
but let me not be put to shame;
let them be dismayed,
but let me not be dismayed;
bring upon them the day of disaster;
destroy them with double destruction!"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Holy One, we confess that we are a people who do not trust You.

**We are stubborn and rebellious,
habitually unwilling to hear Your loving,
fatherly instruction.**

**We have repeatedly despised Your words,
and have even despised Your incarnate Word,
Jesus Christ, pursuing Him to death.**

**We have carried out our own plans for our lives,
disregarding Your loving plan,
or treating it as second best
when that plan involves pain
or not getting what we want.**

**We have trusted in our desires for
physical and emotional comfort,
approval from others,
health, wealth, success, or intimacy.**

**Help us, our Father, to trust You
in the midst of this earthly life.**

**We grow weary, and our strength is small
as we fight against the sin in our hearts
and in the hearts of others.**

**Help us to find our all in all in no less
than Jesus Christ Himself.**

In His name we pray, 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.*

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21

**M: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold the new has come.
All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled
us to Himself... 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

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.**

**From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.**

**'Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.**

**O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel John Stone (1866)
Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

Philippians 1:1-2

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

"Dear Philippians"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

SONG OF RESPONSE

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

**May the mind of Christ, my Savior
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
This is victory.**

**May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925).
Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

GOD BUILDS HIS CHURCH

Reception of New Members

Sharon Kehoe, Rina Kroes

- Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?
- Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God, humbling yourself, offering no morality or righteousness of your own, but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?
- Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin, as the Prophet for all your truth, and as the King of all your life, resting on Him and His righteousness alone for your salvation?

- Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling by reliance on the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God?
- Do you promise to support this communion with your prayers and offerings, to strive for its purity and peace, and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand):

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome these sisters as members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities to build up them up and to seek to practice with them true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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

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

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us —
And we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Torn for you —
Eat and remember:
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.**

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you —
Drink and remember:
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.**

**So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.**

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond —**

**And to remember:
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.**

**As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

**As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.**

Words and music Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend
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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.