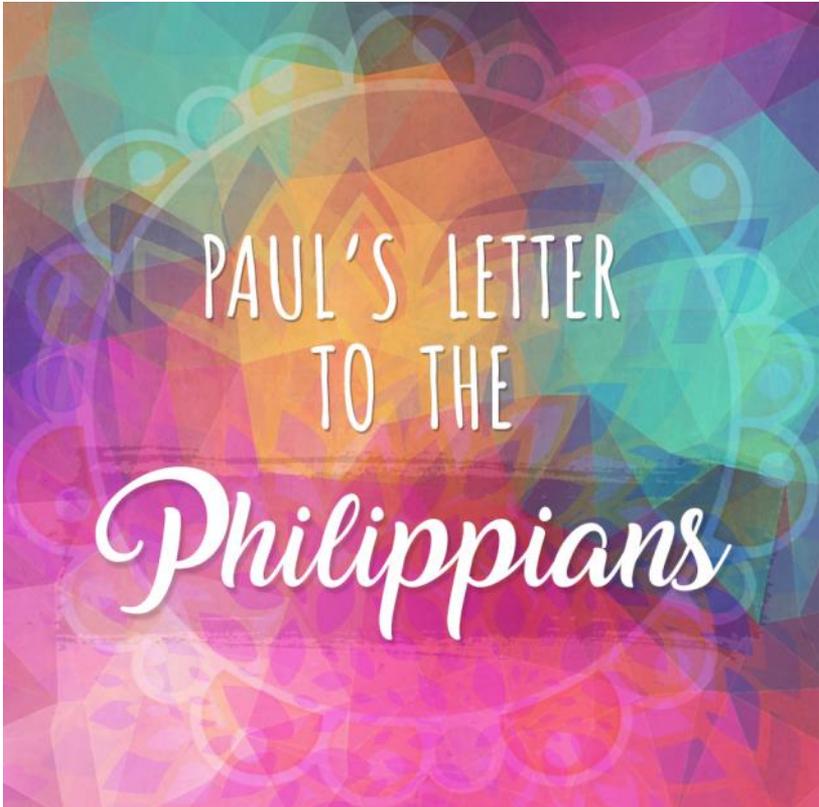




Ascension PCA

May 1, 2022



PAUL'S LETTER
TO THE
Philippians

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 man who has God for his treasure has all things in One.
Many ordinary treasures may be denied him,
or if he is allowed to have them,
the enjoyment of them will be so tempered
that they will never be necessary to his happiness.

Or if he must see them go, one after one,
he will scarcely feel a sense of loss,
for having the Source of all things,
he has in One all satisfaction, all pleasure, all delight.

Whatever he may lose he has actually lost nothing,
for he now has it all in One,
and he has it purely, legitimately, forever.

~ A.W. Tozer

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

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

based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

M: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**P: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives.
We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in His holy temple.
We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the LORD.**

M: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**P: Teach us Your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

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*. Music by John Wyeth (1813).
Words: ©2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The God of Abra'm Praise

**The God of Abra'm praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days
and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,
at whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
at His right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame and pow'r;
And Him my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.**

**The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
All might and majesty are Thine
and endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

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 25:1-14

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), ² which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ³ "For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. ⁴ You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all His servants the prophets, ⁵ saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever. ⁶ Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.' ⁷ Yet you have not listened to Me, declares the LORD, that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm. ⁸ "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not obeyed My words, ⁹ behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. ¹⁰ Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

¹¹ This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste. ¹³ I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. ¹⁴ For many nations and great kings shall make slaves even of them, and I will recompense them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Father in heaven, we thank You
for the freedom You have given us
through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son.
But we confess today that we often live like slaves.
Instead of living like You delight in us,
we avoid You in shame and guilt.
Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift,
we try to earn it with our efforts.
Instead of accepting Your freedom,
we prefer our chains.
Instead of pursuing Your purposes,
we cling to our short-sighted agendas.
Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us.
We ask this in Jesus' name. 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

**M: The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God in Christ,
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825)
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

from Nehemiah 10

We also assume responsibility for bringing to
the house of the LORD each year
the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree...
We will not neglect the house of our God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Glorious Christ

**The radiance of the Father
Before the dawn of time;
You spoke and all creation came to be.
The molecules and planets
Reveal Your great design,
And every one was made so we could see,
So we could see:**

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.***

**You left the air of heaven
To breathe the dust of earth,
And dwell among the outcast and the poor.
You came to be forsaken
And died to take our curse,
So You could be our joy forevermore,
Forevermore.**

***You are the glorious Christ,
The greatest of all delights.
Your power is unequalled,
Your love beyond all heights.***

**No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life.
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night,
Glorious Christ.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin
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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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.**

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements from the elders at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

SONG OF MEDITATION

Rock of Ages

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady. Music by James Ward.
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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

SONG OF RESPONSE

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye,
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.**

**O'er all those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
For I shall see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

***I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.***

Words by Samuel Stennet (1787). Music by Christopher Miner (1997).
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

**10:00AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

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Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)

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