



Ascension PCA

November 27, 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.

WELCOME TO ASCENSION!

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

**We are delighted that you are here,
especially if this is your first time with us.**

Connect with One Another:

We would love to know that you were here this morning and encourage you to fill in a *Connect Card* so that we can follow up with you, answer your questions, or pray for you. Our practice of wearing *Name Tags* is to make you feel more comfortable among us, help you to identify staff and leadership, and make it easier for you to connect with us. See our back page for contact information. We heartily invite you to join us for *refreshments* and conversation after the service.

To Parents of Young Children:

If you would like to utilize it, we have a staffed *Nursery* for children through age 3 across the hall. We encourage younger children to remain with us during the service. They are not a distraction! *Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child. Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

Free Biblical Resources:

If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles as our gift for you to take home. You are also welcome to browse the literature and resources available to you on the Welcome Table, carts, and stands.

Joyfully worshipping together
as the family of God,
with reverence and awe,
mindful of our heritage
as well as our present context.



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 celebration of Advent is possible only to those
who are troubled in soul,
who know themselves to be poor and imperfect,
who look forward to something greater to come.*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Hebrews 1:1-4

M: Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,
whom He appointed the heir of all things,
through whom He also created the world.
He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of His nature,
and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.
After making purification for sins,
He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels
as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Behold our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!***

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!***

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come let us adore Him!

Words and music by

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)

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Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

Words by Henry Alford (1844, 1867). Music by George J. Elvey (1859).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT READINGS

Isaiah 2:2-5; Romans 13:11-14

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that He may teach us His ways
and that we may walk in His paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision

P: Eternal God, how we mourn our sin and ingratitude.

**All things in heaven, earth, around, within, without,
condemn us —**

**the sun which sees our misdeeds,
the darkness which is as light to You,
the cruel accuser who charges us,
Your presence which scans our secret sins,
Your righteous law, Your holy Word,
our sin-soiled consciences.**

**We frame no excuse but confess,
“Father, we have sinned.”**

**Yet still we live, and fly repenting
to Your outstretched arms;**

**You will not cast us off,
for Jesus brings us near,
You will not condemn us,
for He died in our place,
You will not mark our mountains of sin,
for He leveled all,
and His beauty covers our deformities.**

**O God, we bid farewell to sin
by clinging to His cross,
hiding in His wounds,
and sheltering in His side. 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

based on Isaiah 40:1–2

**M: Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.**

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

O Help My Unbelief

**How sad our state by nature is!
Our sin, how deep it stains!
And Satan binds our captive minds
fast in his slavish chains.**

***But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
and trust upon the Lord."***

**My soul obeys th'almighty call,
and runs to this relief.
I would believe Thy promise, Lord;
O help my unbelief!**

***To the dear fountain of Thy blood,
incarnate God, I fly;
Here let me wash my spotted soul,
from crimes of deepest dye.***

**Stretch out Thine arm, victorious King,
my reigning sins subdue;
Drive the old dragon from his seat,
with all his hellish crew.**

***A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
on Thy kind arms I fall;
Be Thou my strength and righteousness,
my Jesus, and my all.***

***But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
sounds from the sacred Word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come,
and trust upon the Lord."***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707–1709). Music by Justin Smith (2007).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2007 Smith, Justin.

O Come, All Ye Unfaithful

**O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.**

**O come, barren and waiting ones,
Weary of praying. Come,
See what your God has done.**

***Christ is born.
Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

**O come, bitter and broken.
Come, with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of His perfect love.**

**O come, guilty and hiding ones,
There is no need to run.
See what your God has done.**

***Christ is born.
Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

***He's the Lamb who was given,
Slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace
For those who believe.***

**So come, though you have nothing.
Come, He is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.**

***Christ is born.
Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

Words and music by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin (2020)
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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 9: 1-2, 6-7

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

- 2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
- 6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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 Child is Born”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 89:11

The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours;
the world and all that is in it, You have founded them.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

What Child is This

**What Child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here,
the silent Word is pleading.
*Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
*Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Traditional English carol, adapted by William C. Dix (ca. 1865).
Music: "Greensleeves", English Melody (16th century).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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 TOGETHER

from the Athanasian Creed

**P: We believe and confess that
our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.
He is God from the essence of the Father
begotten before time
and He is human from the essence of His mother,
born in time...**

**...completely God, completely human
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.
Although He is God and human
yet Christ is not two, but one.**

**He is one, however, not by His divinity
being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to Himself.
He is one, certainly not by the blending of His essence,
but by the unity of His person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation; He descended into hell;
He arose from the dead; He ascended to heaven;
He is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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.

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



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Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

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Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

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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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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.