



Ascension PCA

January 1, 2023



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

*O LORD, I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year,
with Thee, O Father, as my harbour,
Thee, O Son, at my helm,
Thee, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.*

*Guide me to heaven with my loins girt, my lamp burning,
my ear open to Thy calls, my heart full of love, my soul free.*

Give me Thy grace to sanctify me,

Thy comforts to cheer,

Thy wisdom to teach,

Thy right hand to guide,

Thy counsel to instruct,

Thy law to judge,

Thy presence to stabilize.

May Thy fear be my awe, Thy triumphs my joy.

~ from "New Year" in the Valley of Vision

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 111

M: Praise the LORD!

**P: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.**

M: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.
He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the inheritance for the nations.

**P: The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;
they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

M: He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!

**P: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains
high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.**

**Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render,
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
Every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out
across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered,
that the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out
across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out
across the lands.***

***You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out
across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

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.

THE LAW OF GOD

Psalm 1:1-2

M: Blessed is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on His law he meditates day and night.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O God, You have shown us the way of life
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**We confess with shame
our slowness to learn of Him,
our failure to follow Him,
and our reluctance to bear the cross.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

**We confess the poverty of our worship,
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,
our hesitating witness for Christ,
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 59–60

**P: By true faith in Jesus Christ,
I am right with God and heir to life everlasting.
Even though my conscience accuses me
of having grievously sinned
against all of God's commandments
and of never having kept any of them,
and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,
nevertheless, without my deserving it at all,
out of sheer grace,
God grants and credits to me
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness,
and holiness of Christ,
as if I have never sinned nor been a sinner,
as if I had been as perfectly obedient
as Christ was obedient for me.
All I need to do is accept this gift of God
with a believing heart.**

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

**Out of the depths I cry to You,
in darkest places I will call,
Incline Your ear to me anew,
and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.**

**Were You to count my sinful ways,
how could I come before Your throne?
Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze,
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.*

*I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.*

**So put Your hope in God alone,
take courage in His power to save,
Completely and forever won
by Christ emerging from the grave.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You
till my soul is satisfied.***

**Now He has come to make a way,
and God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today
find healing in His sacrifice.**

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

***I will wait for You, I will wait for You
through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
for Your love is my delight.***

Words and music by
Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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His Mercy is More

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember
no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing,
He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore;
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait
as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender,
is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest,
the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness
He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment,
His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford.
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

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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

READING OF THE WORD

Proverbs 1:1-7

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- ² To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
- ³ to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- ⁴ to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth —
- ⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
be Thou still my strength and shield,
be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.**

Welsh hymn: words by William Williams (1745);
stanza 1 translated by Peter Williams (1771),
stanza 2-3 translated by William Williams (1772)
Music by John Hughes (1907)
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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

based on the Belgic Confession, Art. 20 & 21

M: What do you believe about the work of God?

**P: We believe that God—
who is perfectly merciful and also very just—
sent His Son to assume the nature
in which the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

M: And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

**P: We believe that Jesus Christ presented Himself
in our name before His Father,
to appease His wrath with full satisfaction
by offering Himself on the tree of the cross
and pouring out His precious blood
for the cleansing of our sins,
as the prophets had predicted.**

M: Why did He endure all this?

P: He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

M: What comfort does this give you?

**P: We find all comforts in His wounds
and have no need to seek or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God
than this one and only sacrifice,
once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.**

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.*

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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**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.