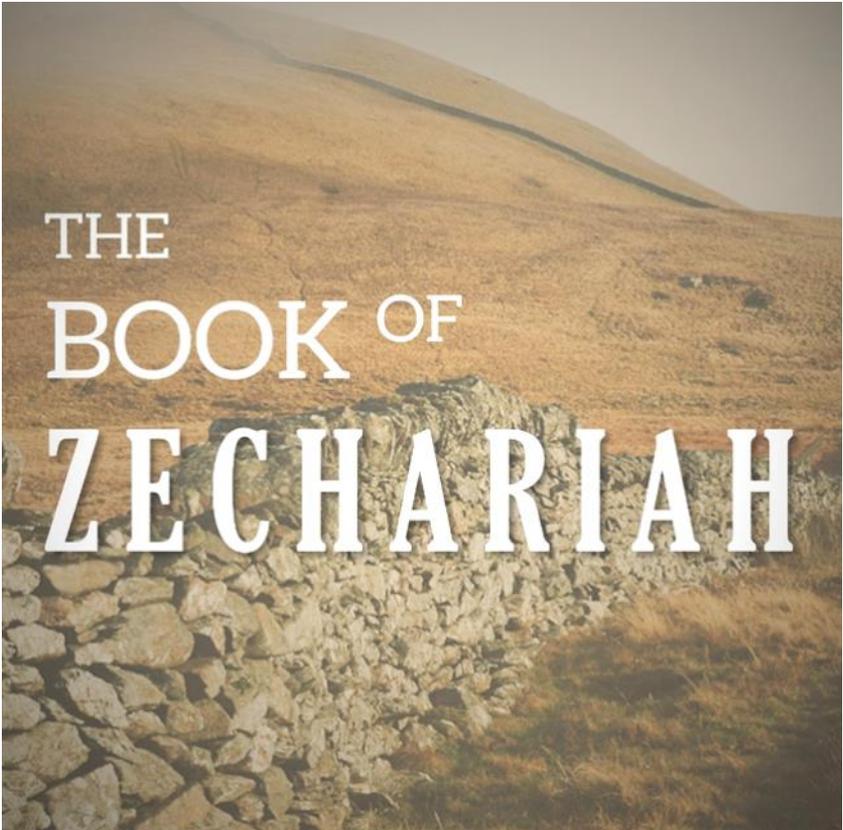




Ascension PCA

January 29, 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

God has called us away from our autonomous, self-focused living to live transcendentally once again.

This means to live with restoration in view in every situation, location, and relationship in which God places me.

And what is God's redemptive purpose? ...

I am making everything new! (Rev. 21:5)

~ Paul Tripp

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 91:2; Romans 10:9,13

M: Let us worship the LORD!

P: He is our refuge and fortress, our God in Whom we trust.

M: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

P: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

M: Let us call upon the triune God,
believing Him in our hearts,
confessing Him with our mouths,
worshipping Him in spirit and truth.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

(in unison)

**P: Father,
whose glory is ever above us,
whose mercy is ever with us,
and whose everlasting arms are ever underneath us,
holy, holy, holy is Your name!**

**Hear us, Father
for we gather together in the name of Jesus,
Your only begotten,
well-beloved Son,
that in Him we might recognize Your presence,
that in Him we might see Your glory.**

**Hear us, Father.
we have been too long in our far country.
Receive us again in the name of Jesus.**

**To You, O Father,
together with the Son and with the Holy Spirit,
one God from all eternity and to all eternity,
be glory, wisdom, power, and dominion evermore. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Only a Holy God

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God,
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger
wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758). Music by John Wyeth (1813).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:1-22

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made himself the Son of God."

⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

¹⁶ So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 51:1-2

**P: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

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

Psalm 32:10-11

**M: "Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one
who trusts in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"**

While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven
through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918).
Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).
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My Jesus, I Love Thee

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death;
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William R. Featherstone (1864).
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876)
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

Zechariah 12:1 – 13:1

¹ The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: ² "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. ³ On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. ⁴ On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep My eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. ⁵ Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.'

⁶ "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem. ⁷ "And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall

be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.
⁹ And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

¹² The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹³ the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹⁴ and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

¹ “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

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

“The Pierced One”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone had the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

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 'til
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
Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "God's Cause"
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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

Isaiah 25:1,6-9

P: O LORD, You are our God;

**We will exalt You; we will praise Your name,
for You have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

**On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.**

**And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.**

**He will swallow up death forever;
and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of His people He will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.**

It will be said on that day,

"Behold, this is our God;

we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

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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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APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM-5:00PM)

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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.