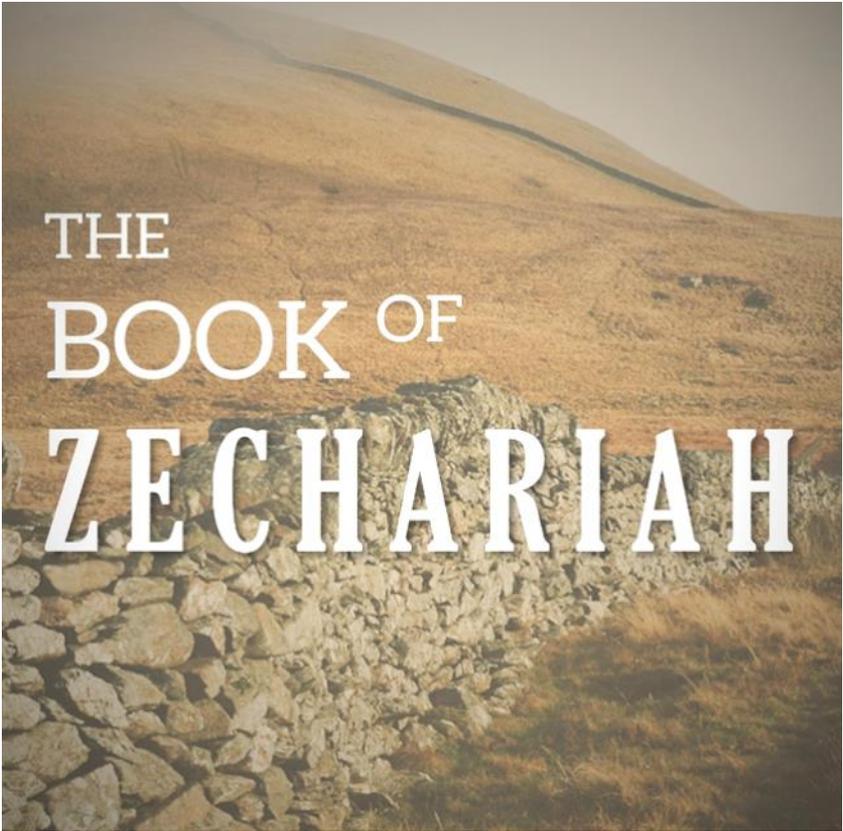




Ascension PCA

February 12, 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

The gospel spreads — grace reigns — the number of praying souls are upon the increase and their prayers I trust will be heard.

We are sure that the Lord reigns, that the storm is guided by the hands which were nailed to the cross,

and that as He loves His own He will take care of them.

Oh what a state of love, life, and joy when we see Jesus as He is!

And by beholding are changed into His image and made according to the utmost capacity of our natures perfectly like Him.

Well it shall, it will come, it approaches nearer every hour!

~ John Newton

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 12:22-24, 28-29

M: You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word
than the blood of Abel.

**P: Therefore let us be grateful
for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,
with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 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 Ludwig van Beethoven (1824).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord to us ...
we're thirsty.
Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on, the perfect path O Lord,
and may we ...
... sin no more, this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

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 19:38 – 20:18

³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them,

'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that He had said these things to her.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: God of everlasting love and extravagant grace,
We confess that we have been unfaithful to You.
We have worshipped other gods:
 money, power, comfort, and convenience.
We have served ourselves above others and above You.
We have not loved our neighbor
 as You have commanded.
Forgive us, God of mercy,
and continue the work that You have begun in us,
making us like Jesus,
by the power of Your Spirit.
Through Christ, our Lord. 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

based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24, Matthew 11:28

**M: Hear the good news:
This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
 that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,
 that we might be dead to sin,
 and alive to all that is good.**

And so Jesus says...

*"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."*

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Come, All You 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.***

***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.***

***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

Zechariah 14:1-21

¹ Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when He fights on a day of battle.

⁴ On that day His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵ And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him.

⁶ On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and His name one.

¹⁰ The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹ And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

¹³ And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. ¹⁴ Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵ And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps.

¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

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 New Day"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till Thy inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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

adapted from Valley of Vision, "Bounty"

**P: Our God rules all things in wisdom, love and power.
He has made summer and winter, day and night,
so that each of these revolutions serves our welfare
and is full of His care and kindness.**

**But as the stars fade before the rising sun,
He has eclipsed all benefits with the wisdom and grace
that purposed our eternal redemption.
By His great mercy, God laid our salvation
on His mighty and willing Son, our Savior;
One that is able to save to the uttermost.
His name is Jesus.
By His grace, His blood cleanses us from our sin.
God imputes to us His righteousness,
which justifies the guilty,
and gives us title to eternal life
and possession of the Holy Spirit.
By this Spirit of life-giving wisdom and power
we have faith to grasp God's promises, rejoice in our hope,
turn from evil, and live for the glory of our Savior.**

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

Amazing Grace!

**Amazing grace! — how sweet the sound —
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.**

**And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.**

St. 1-5 by John Newton (1779); St. 6 from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads* (1790).
Traditional American melody; Arr. by Edwin O. Excell (1900).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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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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