



Ascension PCA

March 5, 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 purest joy in the world is joy in Christ Jesus.
When the Spirit is poured down,
His people get very near and clear views of the Lord Jesus...
They come to a personal cleaving to the Lord.
They taste that the Lord is gracious.
His blood and righteousness appear infinitely perfect,
full and free to their soul.
They sit under His shadow with great delight...
They lean on the Beloved.
They find infinite strength in Him for the use of their soul —
grace for grace — all they can need in any hour of trial
and suffering to the very end."*

~ Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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 our 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 our true God,
believing Him in our hearts,
confessing Him with our mouths,
worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea,
so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with
loving hand guided and stayed thee.**

**How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief
spreading His wings to o'ershade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863)
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field,
and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.
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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 29:24 – 30:7

²⁴ To Shemaiah of Nehelam you shall say: ²⁵ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are in Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, ²⁶ "The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to have charge in the house of the LORD over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and neck irons. ²⁷ Now why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who is prophesying to you? ²⁸ For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "Your exile will be long; build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce."'"

²⁹ Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. ³⁰ Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ³¹ "Send to all the exiles, saying, 'Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah had prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie, ³² therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah of Nehelam and his descendants. He shall not have anyone living among this people, and he shall not see the good that I will do to My people, declares the LORD, for he has spoken rebellion against the LORD.'"

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. ³ For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of My people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it."

⁴ These are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah:

- 5 "Thus says the LORD:
We have heard a cry of panic,
of terror, and no peace.
- 6 Ask now, and see,
can a man bear a child?
Why then do I see every man
with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor?
Why has every face turned pale?
- 7 Alas! That day is so great
there is none like it;
it is a time of distress for Jacob;
yet he shall be saved out of it."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Romans 3:23

P: We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

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 Romans 4:24-25

M: God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ
and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead
as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

In Him your sins are forgiven.

SONG 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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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

Matthew 6:5–13

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”

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

“When You Pray”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____



GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above

**I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died
my sinful soul is counted free.
For God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless Righteousness.
The great unchangeable I AM,
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God;
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997)
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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

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,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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

When Peace Like a River

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

***It is well, (it is well)
With my soul; (with my soul)
It is well,
it is well with my soul.***

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.**

***It is well, (it is well)
With my soul; (with my soul)
It is well,
it is well with my soul.***

**My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —
my sin — not in part, but the whole —
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

***It is well (it is well),
With my soul; (with my soul);
It is well,
it is well with my soul.***

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.**

***It is well, (it is well)
With my soul; (with my soul)
It is well,
it is well with my soul.***

***It is well, (it is well)
With my soul; (with my soul)
It is well,
it is well with my soul.***

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford (1873). Music by Philip P. Bliss (1876)
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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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.

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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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