



**Ascension** PCA

**March 19, 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

*Blessed Jesus!*

*We can add nothing to You, nothing to Your glory.*

*But it is a joy of heart to us*

*that You are what You are —*

*that You are gloriously exalted*

*at the right hand of God.*

*We long more fully and clearly to behold that glory,  
according to Your prayer and promise. Amen.*

~ John Owen

# 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!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Colossians 2:13-14; Psalm 32:11; Sursum Corda*

M: Grace and peace to you who were dead in your sins,  
for God has made you alive with Christ  
and forgiven all your sins.  
Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;  
sing, all you who are now upright in heart!  
Lift up your hearts!

**P: We lift them up to the LORD!**

M: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God!

**P: It is good and right to do so!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961). Music by Holly Dutton (2001).  
Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

*Lord, for Your Glory*

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.  
We magnify Your holy name.  
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.  
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.  
You have been faithful to Your own.  
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.  
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,  
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,  
Grant Cunningham (1998)  
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

## 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 31:1-14*

*Mr. Philip Suh*

<sup>1</sup> "At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be My people."

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

"The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;  
when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away.

- I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.
- 4 Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines  
and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.
- 5 Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.
- 6 For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
'Arise, and let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.'
- 7 For thus says the LORD:  
'Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
'O LORD, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.'
- 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.
- 9 With weeping they shall come,  
and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back,  
I will make them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble,  
for I am a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is My firstborn.
- 10 'Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps His flock.'
- 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall be like a watered garden,  
and they shall languish no more.
- 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

- I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
- 14 I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,  
and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness,  
declares the LORD.”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O most great, most just, and gracious God;  
You are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity;  
but You have promised mercy through Jesus Christ  
to all who repent and believe in Him.  
Therefore, we confess that we are sinful by nature  
and that we have all sinned  
and come short of the glory of God.  
We have neglected and abused Your holy worship  
and Your holy Name.  
We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably  
with our neighbors.  
We have not sought first Your kingdom  
and righteousness.  
We have not been content with our daily bread.  
You have revealed Your wonderful love to us in Christ  
and offered us pardon and salvation in Him;  
but we have turned away.  
We have run into temptation;  
and the sin that we should have hated,  
we have committed.  
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father!  
We confess You alone are our hope.  
Make us Your children and give us the Spirit of Your Son,  
our only Savior. 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

*Isaiah 43:25*

- M: This is what the LORD your God says: “I, I am He  
who blots out your transgressions for My own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.”**

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Glorious Christ*

**The radiance of the Father  
before the dawn of time;  
You spoke and all creation came to be.  
The molecules and planets  
reveal Your great design,  
and every one was made so we could see,  
so we could see:**

***You are the glorious Christ,  
the greatest of all delights.  
Your power is unequalled,  
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice  
than when You laid down Your life.  
We join the song of angels  
who praise You day and night,  
Glorious Christ.***

**You left the air of heaven  
to breathe the dust of earth,  
and dwell among the outcast and the poor.  
You came to be forsaken  
and died to take our curse,  
so You could be our joy forevermore,  
forevermore.**

***You are the glorious Christ,  
the greatest of all delights.  
Your power is unequalled,  
Your love beyond all heights.***

***No greater sacrifice  
than when You laid down Your life.  
We join the song of angels  
who praise You day and night,  
Glorious Christ.***

Words and music by Bob Kaufflin  
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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

*Matthew 6:5–13*

<sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> But 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.

<sup>7</sup> "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. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

    "Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be Your name.  
<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
    Your will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,  
<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
        as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> 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.**





# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 33:20-21*

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
He is our help and our shield.  
For our heart is glad in Him,  
because we trust in His holy name.

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
the house of Thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved  
with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God:  
her walls before Thee stand.  
dear as the apple of Thine eye  
and graven on Thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall,  
for her my prayers ascend;  
to her my cares and toils be giv'n,  
till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
her hymns of love and praise.**

**Jesus, Thou Friend divine,  
our Savior and our King,  
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe  
shall great deliv'rance bring.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
to Zion shall be giv'n  
the brightest glories earth can yield,  
and brighter bliss of heaven.**

Words by Timothy Dwight (1800). Music by Aaron Williams (1763).  
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

*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

*As A Beggar I Come To Thee*

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.  
As a beggar, I come to Thee.  
With empty hands, without one plea.  
As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.  
At Thy table I find a feast.  
Here come the poor, the lame, the least.  
At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Precious Savior, how can it be?  
Thine own dear blood was shed for me!  
Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.  
Long I to see Thy kingdom come.  
All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!  
With lifted hearts our prayer is sung:  
Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton (2012).  
© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## 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

**10:00AM: Worship Service** (in-person & livestream)

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