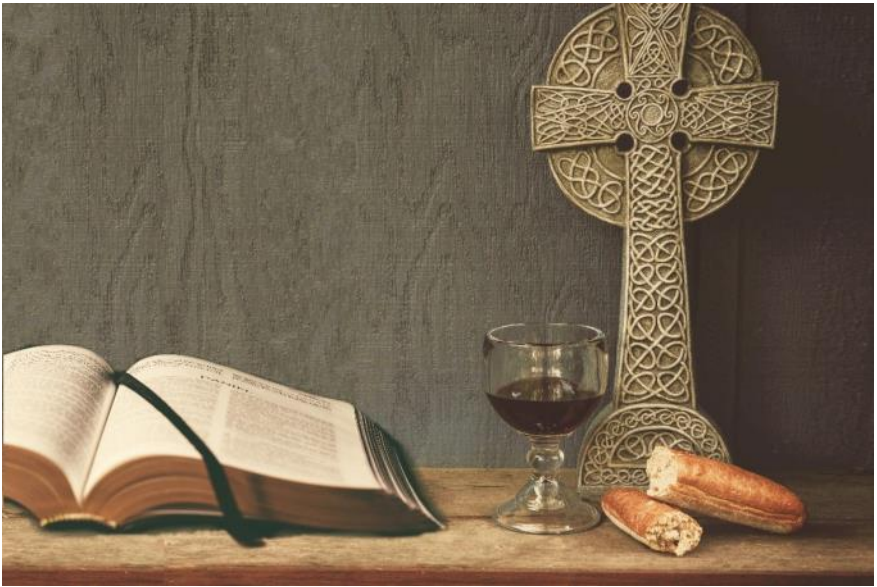




# Ascension PCA

March 26, 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

*Lord, You have given me a portion in the world.  
You have given me credit and a reputation among others.  
But what is all this to me, if I am without Christ?  
If I do not have the One who gives grace to my soul,  
the One who is my all in all?  
Lord, You have taught me this day  
that the distance between You and me is so great  
that without a mediator,  
I perish forever.  
So whatever else You deny me, **give me Jesus.** Amen.*

~ Jeremiah Burroughs

# 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

*Psalm 136:1,3,23, 26*

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**Women: For His steadfast love endures forever.**

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD of lords:

**Men: For His steadfast love endures forever.**

Minister: It is He who remembered us in our low estate,  
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
For His steadfast love endures forever.**

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Glorious and Mighty*

**Majesty, Your glory is shining  
Brighter than the moon and the stars.  
Marveling, we honor and fear You  
above all gods.**

*Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens;  
Your decrees can never be changed.  
Over all the plans of the nations,  
Your judgments reign.**

*Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation;  
When You come again in the clouds.  
Every knee will bow down and worship  
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.  
Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.  
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise

### *There is a Higher Throne*

**There is a higher throne  
than all this world has known;  
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue  
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,  
made faultless through the Lamb;  
Believing hearts find promised grace.  
Salvation comes.**

***Hear heaven's voices sing.  
Their thund'rous anthem rings  
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,  
their praises rise.***

***All glory, wisdom, pow'r,  
strength, thanks, and honor are  
to God our King who reigns on high,  
forever more.***

**And there we'll find our home,  
our life before the throne;  
We'll honor Him in perfect song  
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye  
as thirst and hunger die;  
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;  
We'll reign with Him.**

***Hear heaven's voices sing.  
Their thund'rous anthem rings  
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,  
their praises rise.***

**All glory, wisdom, pow'r,  
strength, thanks, and honor are  
to God our King who reigns on high,  
forever more.**

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.  
© 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.

## NEW TESTAMENT CALL TO CONFESSION

*Matthew 22:37-39*

And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, unto Whom all hearts are open  
and all desires known,  
and before Whom no secrets are hidden  
and every private wish known...  
forgive us.**

**Forgive us for our lack of love  
and cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the power and grace of Your Holy Spirit.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, 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

*Psalm 32:1-2*

M: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
*To all you who look in faith to the Lord Jesus...  
know that you are forgiven.*

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*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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Messenger Hymns

# 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

### *Nehemiah 4:1–23*

<sup>1</sup> Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" <sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building — if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from Your sight, for they have provoked You to anger in the presence of the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.

<sup>8</sup> And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. <sup>9</sup> And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

<sup>10</sup> In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." <sup>11</sup> And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." <sup>12</sup> At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." <sup>13</sup> So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

<sup>14</sup> And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the LORD, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."



# 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

*"God's Work "*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

# PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 96:8*

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, and come into His courts!

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*The Church's One Foundation*

**The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is His new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder  
men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore,  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Brian Moss (1996).  
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# SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

*To the candidates:*

- Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
- Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
- Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
- Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
- Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity, and edification of the Church?

*To the congregation:*

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as ruling elders, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

*Laying on of Hands and Prayer*

*Right Hand of Fellowship and Pronouncement*

*Exhortation*

*Pastor Ed Volz*

## 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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

## CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:**

**that Christ died for our sins  
according to the Scriptures,  
that He was buried,  
that He was raised on the third day,  
and that He appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
He is our Lord and our God.**

## 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

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
to Thy glorious rest above.**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
changeth never, nevermore.

How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to Thee.

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).  
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)  
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-PCA.ORG

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

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