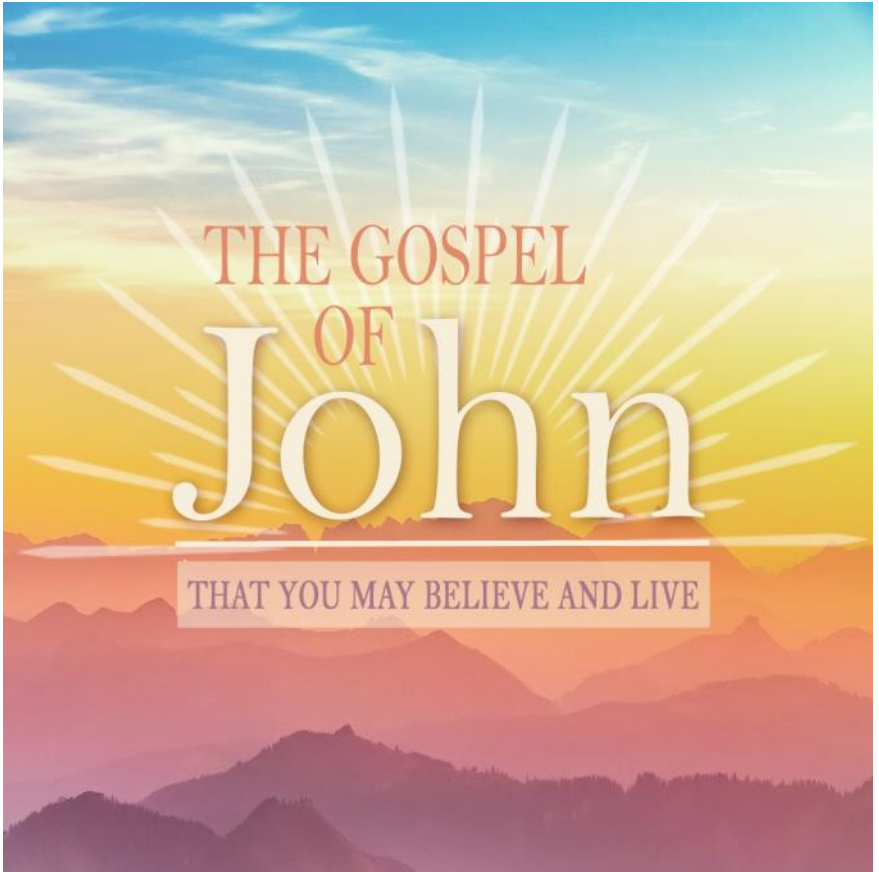




Ascension PCA

May 28, 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

*They were all looking for a King
to slay their foes and lift them high.
Thou camst, a little baby thing
that made a woman cry.*

~ George MacDonald

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

Hebrews 1:1-3

M: Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

P: but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,

M: Whom He appointed the heir of all things,
through whom He also created the world.

**P: He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of His nature,
and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.**

M: After making purification for sins,
He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

P: Praise God for the gift of the Son!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
Called us by His grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
When thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted Him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Step by Step

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.
Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek You in the morning
and I will learn to walk in Your ways,
And step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.**

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.
Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

Words and music by David (Beaker) Strasser (1992).
© 1992 Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing, Universal Music (Brentwood Benson Publishing)

Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever more be Thine.**

Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873)

Music from *S hlesische Volkslieder* (1842)

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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14–26

Elder C.J. DeGroot

¹⁴ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in My presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

¹⁹The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁰“Thus says the LORD: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, ²¹then also My covenant with David My servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and My covenant with the Levitical priests My ministers. ²²As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David My servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to Me.”

²³The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁴“Have you not observed that these people are saying, ‘The LORD has rejected the two clans that He chose’? Thus they have despised My people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. ²⁵Thus says the LORD: If I have not established My covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, ²⁶then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David My servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.”

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Faithful Father,

Your love for us is changeless and unending.

**We confess that our love for You is weak, flickering,
variable, and laced with selfish ambition and desire.**

**Your love is like a mighty ocean that rushes toward us
each day and envelops us with kindness, mercy,
and steadfast faithfulness.**

**Our love for You is like a fleeting mist:
a vapor that rises from time to time and quickly
evaporates in the heat of life’s pain and suffering.**

**Father, forgive us for loving so many other gods
and giving our lives to them,
while failing to notice Your hand of love
at work for us each day.**

**Jesus, thank You for Your changeless and ending love.
You loved us before the foundation of the world
and entered history in order to redeem us.**

**Holy Spirit, fill us with gratitude for the love we have
in Christ that will never let us go.**

**Though our sins are many, lift up our heads
and show us the cross. 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:31b,32

...If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

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

John 1:14–18

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

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

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,
for we brought nothing into the world,
and we cannot take anything out of the world.
But if we have food and clothing,
with these we will be content.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Through the Precious Blood

**You have ordained every breath we take,
in pleasure or pain there is no mistake.
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,
and sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows
will yield an endless prize,
when some bright tomorrow
we'll see You with our eyes.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.*

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,
Your mercies crown our lives all our days;
River of life quench our thirsty souls,
for no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season
we are satisfied,
for just one reason:
Christ was crucified.**

*And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down ,,,*

***And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down;
And grace upon grace
flows down, flows down
through the precious blood of Christ.***

Words and music by Mark Altrogge
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GOD 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 I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)
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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Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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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

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)

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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