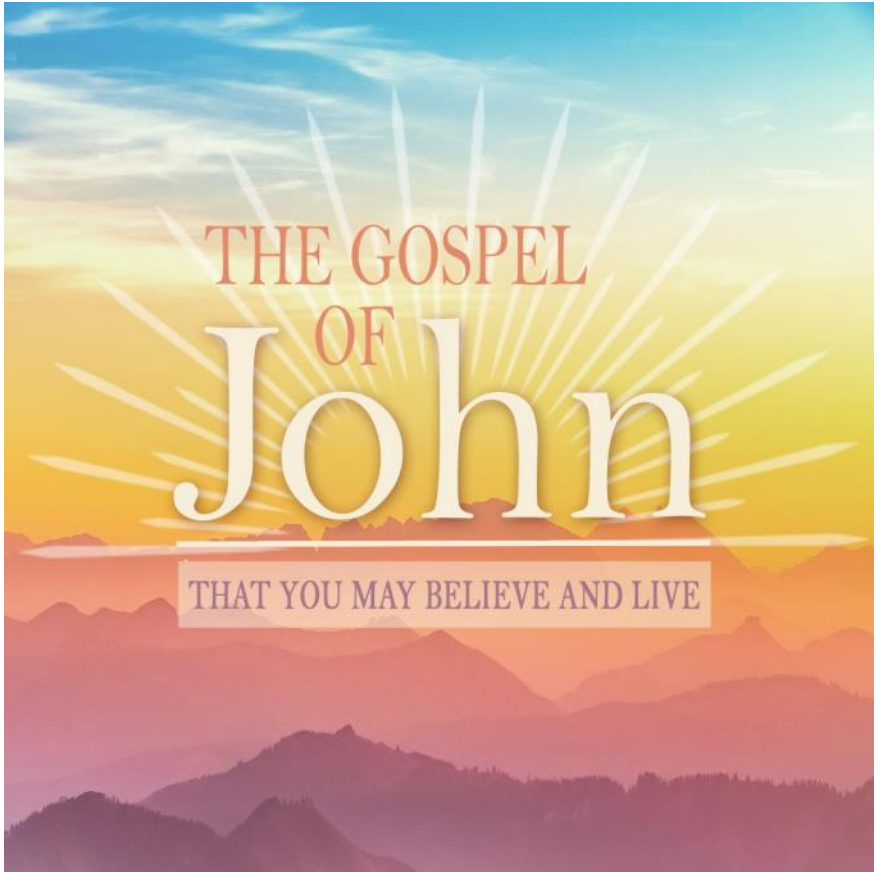




**Ascension** PCA

**June 11, 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

*“Follow thou Me.  
I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.  
Without the Way there is no going;  
without the Truth there is no knowing;  
without the Life there is no living.  
I am the Way which thou must follow;  
the Truth which thou must believe;  
the Life for which thou must hope.  
I am the inviolable Way;  
the infallible Truth,  
the never-ending Life.  
I am the straightest Way;  
the sovereign Truth;  
Life true, Life blessed, Life uncreated.”*

~ Thomas à Kempis

# 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

M: 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.**

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD God Almighty,  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Glory to You, O LORD, most high.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalms 104*

**My soul bless the LORD!  
LORD God You are great!  
With honor arrayed,  
majestic in state,  
You cover Yourself  
with a garment of light,  
and stretch out the sky  
as a curtain by night.**

**The beams of Your courts  
in waters You laid;  
on wings of the wind,  
Your pathway You made.  
The clouds are Your chariot;  
the winds do Your will;  
the flames and the lightnings  
Your pleasure fulfill.**

**I'll sing to the LORD,  
as long as I live,  
sing praise to my God  
while life He will give.  
My vast thoughts about Him  
will pleasure afford,  
for I am rejoicing  
each day in the LORD.**

Words from Psalm 104; *The Trinity Psalter*. Music by Johan Michael Haydn (1737–1806).  
Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

*The God of Abra'm Praise*

**The God of Abra'm praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days  
and God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred Name  
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,  
at whose supreme command  
from earth I rise and seek the joys  
at His right hand.  
I all on earth forsake,  
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r;  
and Him my only portion make,  
my shield and tow'r.**

**The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high:  
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"  
they ever cry.  
Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!  
I join the heav'nly lays;  
all might and majesty are Thine  
and endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

## **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 34:8-22*

*Elder Chris Sledge*

<sup>8</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them, <sup>9</sup> that everyone should set free his Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one should enslave a Jew, his brother. <sup>10</sup> And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his slave, male or female, so that they would not be enslaved again. They obeyed and set them free. <sup>11</sup> But afterward they turned around and took back the male and female slaves they had set free, and brought them into subjection as slaves. <sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>13</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying, <sup>14</sup> 'At the end of seven years each of you must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must set him free from your service.' But your fathers did not listen to Me or incline their ears to Me. <sup>15</sup> You recently repented and did what was right in My eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before Me in the house that is called by My name, <sup>16</sup> but then you turned around and profaned My name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.

<sup>17</sup> "Therefore, thus says the LORD: You have not obeyed Me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, declares the LORD. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. <sup>18</sup> And the men who transgressed My covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before Me, I will make them like the calf that they cut in two and passed between its parts — <sup>19</sup> the officials of Judah, the officials of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf. <sup>20</sup> And I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives. Their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. <sup>21</sup> And Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon which has withdrawn from you. <sup>22</sup> Behold, I will command, declares the LORD, and will bring them back to this city. And they will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from The Valley of Vision*

**P: Lord Jesus, give me a deeper repentance,  
a horror of sin, a dread of its approach;  
Help me to flee it,  
and jealously to resolve  
that my heart shall be Yours alone.**

**Give me a deeper trust,  
that I may lose myself to find myself in You,  
the ground of my rest, the spring of my being.**

**Give me a deeper knowledge of Yourself  
as Savior, Master, Lord, and King.**

**Give me deeper power in private prayer,  
more sweetness in Your Word,  
more steadfast grip on its truth.**

**Give me deeper holiness  
in speech, thought, action,  
and let me not seek moral virtue apart from You.**

**Plough deep in me, great Lord,  
that my being may be a tilled field,  
the roots of grace spreading far and wide,  
until You alone are seen in me. 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

*1 John 4:10*

In this is love, not that we have loved God  
but that He loved us and sent His Son  
to be the propitiation for our sins.

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*How High and How Wide*

**No eye has seen,  
and no ear has heard,  
and no mind has ever conceived,  
the glorious things  
that You have prepared  
for everyone who has believed;  
You brought us near and You called us Your own,  
and made us joint heirs with Your Son.**

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord?*

**Objects of mercy  
who should have known wrath,  
we're filled with unspeakable joy.  
Riches of wisdom,  
unsearchable wealth,  
and the wonder of knowing Your voice.  
You are our Treasure and our great Reward,  
our Hope and our glorious King.**

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord?*

*How high and how wide,  
how deep and how long,  
how sweet and how strong is Your love;  
How lavish Your grace,  
how faithful Your ways,  
how great is Your love, O Lord?*

Words and music by Mark Altrogge (1990)  
© 1991 Integrity's Praise! Music, Sovereign Grace Praise



## *He Will Hold Me Fast*

**When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
when the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
through life's fearful path;  
for my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
justice has been satisfied,  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life;  
He will hold me fast;  
'till our faith is turned to sight,  
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918).

Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).

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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 1:35–51*

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,  
<sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold,  
the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this,  
and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following  
and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him,  
"Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?"  
<sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came  
and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him  
that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who  
heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's  
brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him,  
"We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought  
him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon  
the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).  
<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip  
and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida,  
the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said  
to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also  
the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."  
<sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of  
Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw  
Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, "Behold,  
an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael  
said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered him,  
"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw  
you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God!  
You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said  
to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see  
greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Truly, truly,  
I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God  
ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## 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

*2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will give you many opportunities to do good, and He will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Be Thou My Vision*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),  
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)  
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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

*How Sweet and Awesome is the Place*

**How sweet and awesome is the place  
with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays  
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs  
join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
“Lord, why was I a guest?”**

**“Why was I made to hear Your voice,  
and enter while there’s room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice,  
and rather starve than come?”**

**‘Twas the same love that spread the feast  
that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste,  
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,  
constrain the earth to come;  
send Your victorious Word abroad,  
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Your whole church full,  
that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul,  
sing Your redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)  
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)  
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

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

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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