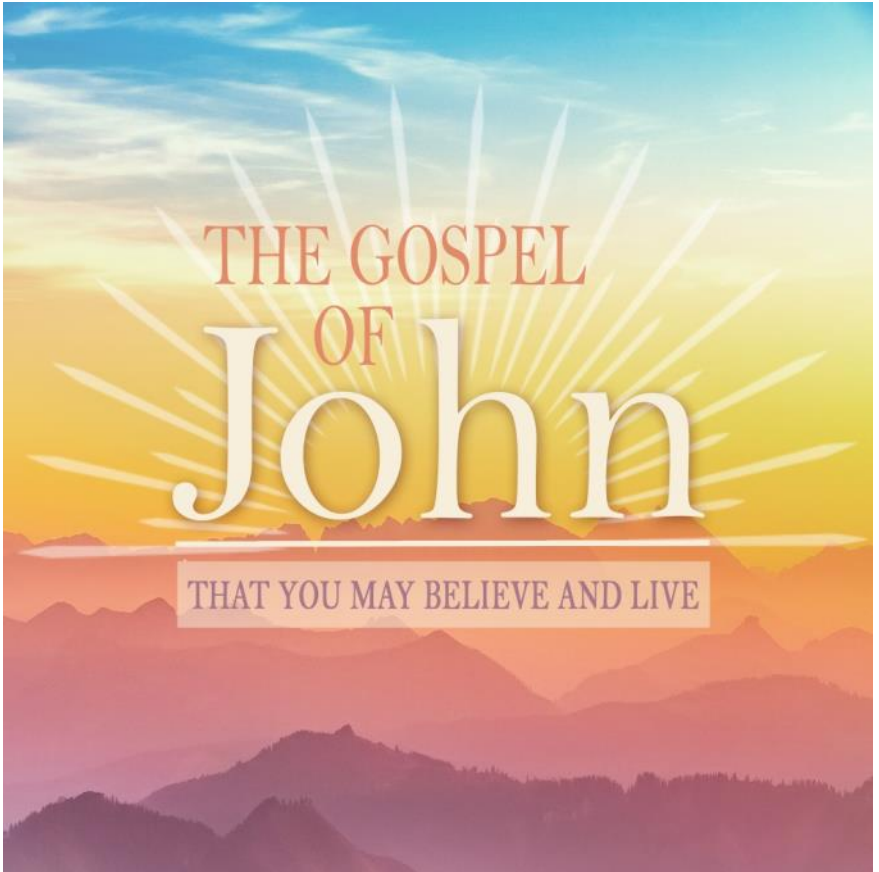




Ascension PCA

June 18, 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

*Creatures are not born with desires
unless satisfaction for those desires exists.*

*A baby feels hunger,
there is such a thing as food,
a duckling wants to swim,
there is such a thing as water...*

*If I find within myself a desire
which no experience in this world can satisfy,
the only probable explanation is,
I was made for something else in another world.*

~ C.S. Lewis

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

1 Peter 1:3-4

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—
kept in heaven for you.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop
the light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be
the light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah
who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave.*

*Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? (He is!)*

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah,
hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

The Lion of Judah

***who conquered the grave,
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave.***

***From ev'ry people and tribe,
every nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
to reign with the Son.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy, is He worthy,
is He worthy of this? (He is!)***

***Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is!***

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).
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Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor for help on man depend;
he shall die, to dust returning,
and his purposes shall end.**

**Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
he is blessed whose hope of blessing
on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
righteousness He will maintain.**

**Food He daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning prisoner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
and the stranger He befriends,
helps the fatherless and widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.**

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
through all ages He is King;
unto Him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.**

Words from Psalm 146, *The Trinity Psalter* (1912); alt.
Music: Gregorian chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
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 35:1–19

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: ² “Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak with them and bring them to the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink.” ³ So I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah and his brothers and all his sons and the whole house of the Rechabites. ⁴ I brought them to the house of the LORD into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, the man of God, which was near the chamber of the officials, above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, keeper of the threshold. ⁵ Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, “Drink wine.” ⁶ But they answered, “We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, ‘You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever. ⁷ You shall not build a house; you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.’ ⁸ We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, ⁹ and not to build houses to dwell in. We have no vineyard or field or seed, ¹⁰ but we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done all that Jonadab our father commanded us. ¹¹ But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land,

we said, 'Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and the army of the Syrians.' So we are living in Jerusalem."

¹² Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ¹³ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to My words? declares the LORD. ¹⁴ The command that Jonadab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink no wine, has been kept, and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed their father's command. I have spoken to you persistently, but you have not listened to Me. ¹⁵ I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.' But you did not incline your ear or listen to Me. ¹⁶ The sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have kept the command that their father gave them, but this people has not obeyed Me. ¹⁷ Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, because I have spoken to them and they have not listened, I have called to them and they have not answered."

¹⁸ But to the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts and done all that he commanded you, ¹⁹ therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Jonadab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before Me."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

from Psalm 25

**P: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love
and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
For Your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

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 8:1,38-39

There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

John 2:1–11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus brining life to man.**

**Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us onward
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry Van Dyke (1907); a;t. Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1822).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elias Jeremiah Hitchcock

Do you acknowledge Elias's need
of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you acknowledge that although he is
conceived and born in sin,
and therefore is subject to condemnation,
he, as a child of believers,
being born within the covenant community,
is set apart in Christ,
and as a member of His visible church,
ought to be baptized?

Do you realize that this sacrament
does not give salvation to him,
but he must, by God's grace,
come to faith, repentance, and obedience
when he reaches the age of discretion?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf
and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ
for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents,
are covenanting with God to raise Elias
in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?

And do you now acknowledge that he belongs to God,
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,
to set before him a godly example,
to pray with and for him,
to teach him the doctrines of the gospel
and of our holy religion,
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,
to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand)

M: Do you as a congregation promise to undertake the responsibility of encouraging, praying for, and as God gives you opportunity, assisting Drew and Asha in the Christian nurture of this child?

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

Romans 5:1-8

**P: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through Him we have also obtained access by faith
into this grace in which we stand,
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
and hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person —
though perhaps for a good person
one would dare even to die —
but God shows His love for us
in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

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

Jesus, Strong and Kind

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful,
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Colin Buchanan.
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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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to

Ascension Presbyterian Church

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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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