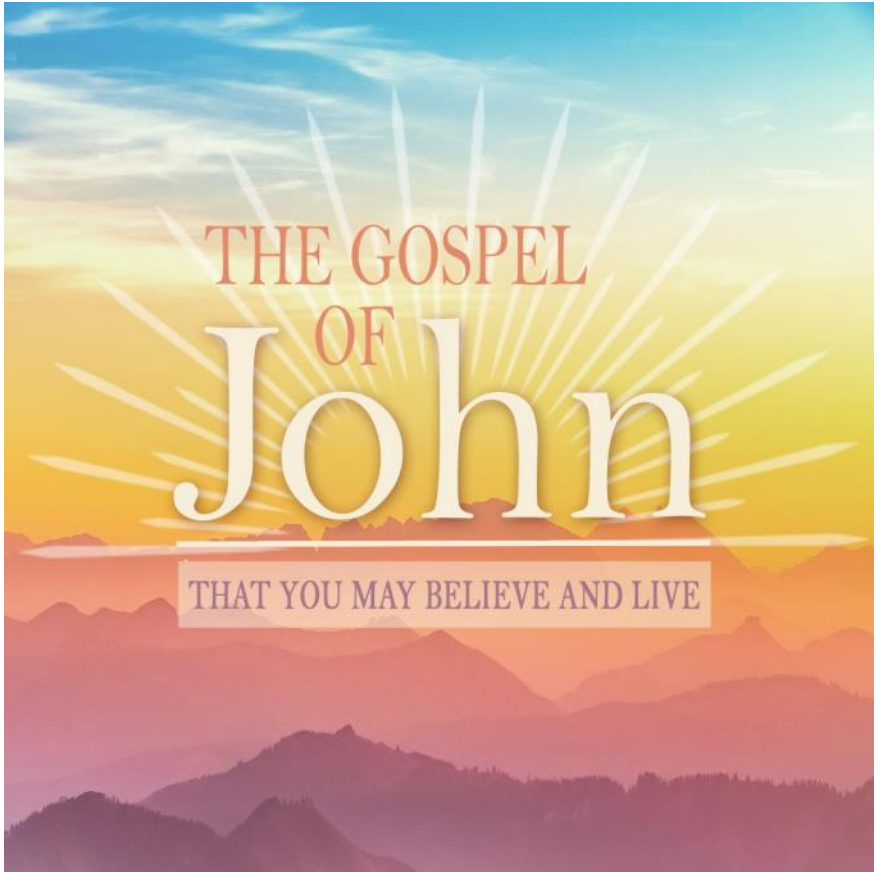




Ascension PCA

July 23, 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

*One there is above all others,
well deserves the name of Friend.
His is love beyond a brother's,
costly, free, and knows no end.
They who once His kindness prove,
find it everlasting love.
Oh for grace our hearts to soften!
Teach us, Lord, at length to love!
We, alas, forget too often,
what a Friend we have above.
But when home our souls are brought,
we will love Thee as we ought.*

~ John Newton

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

ending in the Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever,
Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Colossians 2:13-14 and Psalm 32:11

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!

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

Come, People of the Risen King

**Come, people of the risen King,
who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
to the Morning Star of grace.**

**From the shifting shadows of the earth
we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach
to gather children in.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
and those struggling in the fight.**

**For His perfect love will never change,
and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days
with the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,
men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,
shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through every age:
our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!
Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 47

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom He loves. *Selah*
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God,
we confess that we are stubborn, weak,
and difficult to love at times.
We wander and in our pride invent our own ways.
Make us humble, teachable, patient;
quick to see our sin
and confess it to You and one another.
Jesus, thank You for willingly bearing our griefs
and carrying our sorrows.
Thank You for bringing us peace
through the punishment You bore.**

**Holy Spirit, lead us to Christ.
For we have an Advocate to calm our fears,
and a perfect Lamb who has died in our place. 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 GOOD NEWS

John 3:16

...God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have eternal life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!

**Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus, I do now receive Him,
more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman (1910).
Music by Rowland H. Pritchard (1855).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 3:22–36

²² After this Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, and He remained there with them and was baptizing.

²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness — look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him."

²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.'

²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. ³³ Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

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.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Josiah Jinyoung Suh

Do you acknowledge Josiah'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 Josiah 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 Philip and Mi 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

from the Athanasian Creed

**P: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ,
God's Son, is both God and human, equally.
He is God from the essence of the Father
begotten before time
and He is human from the essence of His mother,
born in time...**

**...completely God, completely human
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.
Although He is God and human
yet Christ is not two, but one.**

**He is one, however, not by His divinity being turned
into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to Himself.
He is one, certainly not by the blending of His
essence, but by the unity of His person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation;
He descended into hell;
He arose from the dead;
He ascended to heaven;**

**He is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

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

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); alt. Music by Jonathan Eck (2023).
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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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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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