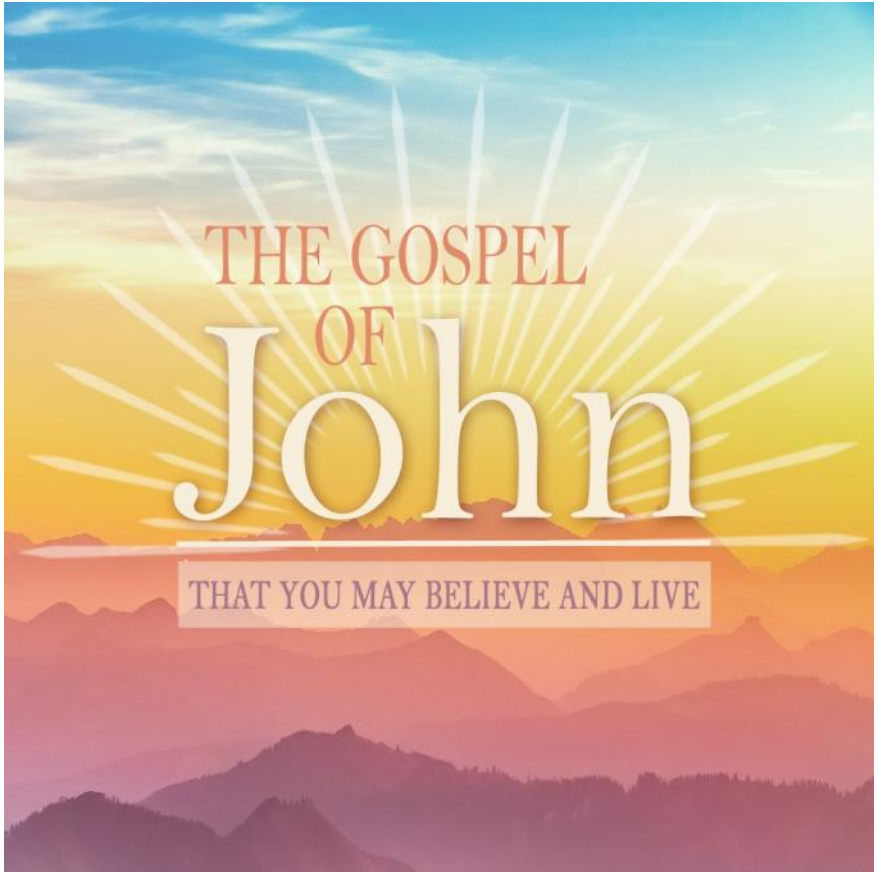




Ascension PCA

July 30, 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

"Then the church shall be brought to the full enjoyment of her bridegroom, having all tears wiped away from her eyes, and there shall be no more distance or absence.

She shall then be brought to the entertainments of an eternal wedding feast, and to dwell forever with her bridegroom, yea, to dwell eternally in His embraces.

Then Christ will give her His loves, and she shall drink her fill, yea, she shall swim in the ocean of His love."

~ Jonathan Edwards

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

Jeremiah 10:6-7

M: There is none like You, O LORD;
You are great, and Your name is great in might.
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
For this is Your due;
for among all the wise ones of the nations
and in all their kingdoms
there is none like You.

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown Him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail Him who saves you by His grace
and crown Him Lord of all;
hail Him who saves you by His grace
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
on this terrestrial ball
to Him all majesty ascribe
and crown Him Lord of all;
to Him all majesty ascribe
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall;
we'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).
Music by Oliver Holden (1793).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
and Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation
and You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
of the day You'll dry these tears.**

*Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.*

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of
fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

*Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.*

*Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.*

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call.
I repent of my prideful disposition;
where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
© 2014 Scot Family Reunion Songs (Admin. by Scot Family Reunion, LLC)

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 48

Elder Philip Suh

- 1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!
His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
- 3 Within her citadels God
has made Himself known as a fortress.
- 4 For behold, the kings assembled;
they came on together.
- 5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic; they took to flight.
- 6 Trembling took hold of them there,
anguish as of a woman in labor.
- 7 By the east wind You shattered
the ships of Tarshish.
- 8 As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God will establish forever.
- 9 We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of Your temple.
- 10 As Your name, O God,
so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
- 11 Let Mount Zion be glad!
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of Your judgments!
- 12 Walk about Zion, go around her,
number her towers,
- 13 consider well her ramparts,
go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
- 14 that this is God,
our God forever and ever.
He will guide us forever.

Selah

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Loving Heavenly Father,

**You alone are the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
It is our great privilege to live under Your omnipotence,
righteousness, wisdom, mercy, and grace.**

**You love us with better love than any we could
ever know here on earth,
and we stand in awe of Your power and commitment
to cherish us.**

**Yet even though we have tasted Your goodness,
we are a people who would rather trust in ourselves.**

**We place our hope in our own talents and abilities,
in relationships with people we admire and love,
in our jobs and good health,
in our economic value and academic abilities.**

**Father, we are worshippers of ourselves,
and we find our hearts full of anxiety and depression
when we discover that we cannot save ourselves.**

**Jesus, thank You for suffering the many agonies
of life in a fallen world on our behalf,
and for remaining faithful and obedient
in temptation, grief, and loss.**

**Holy Spirit, teach us to be still and know
that You are God and we are not.**

**Give us true grief for the ways we sin against You,
and fill us with repentance and hope.**

**Open our eyes to see Your faithfulness and power;
Your great love and unending patience;
Your relentless determination to pursue us,
captivate us, and ravish us
with the truth of the gospel.**

Forgive us and lead us, 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 GOOD NEWS

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

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

John 4:1–19

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again for Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."

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

Luke 12:15

Watch out! Be on guard against all kinds of greed;
a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
rest beside these living waters.**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
at the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
rise up in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Spirit moving, mercy washing;
healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shoreline,
life is in these living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless.
Christ, He is our living waters.**

*There's a river that flows with mercy and love,
bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore.
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

Words and music by Ed Cash and Kristyn Getty.
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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

The Precious Blood

**Before the cross I kneel and see
the measure of my sin,
how You became a curse for me,
though You were innocent.
The magnitude of Your great love
was shown in full degree,
when righteous blood, the crimson spill,
rained down from Calvary.**

*Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.*

*It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.*

**And who am I that I should know
this treasure of such worth?
My Savior's pure atoning blood,
shed for the wrath I'd earned.
For sin has stained my every deed,
my every word and thought.
What wondrous love that makes me one
Your priceless blood has bought.**

*Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.*

*It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.*

*A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea ...*

*A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea ...*

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.
Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.
It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "The Precious Blood".
Music and words by Peter Gagnon (2006).
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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
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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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