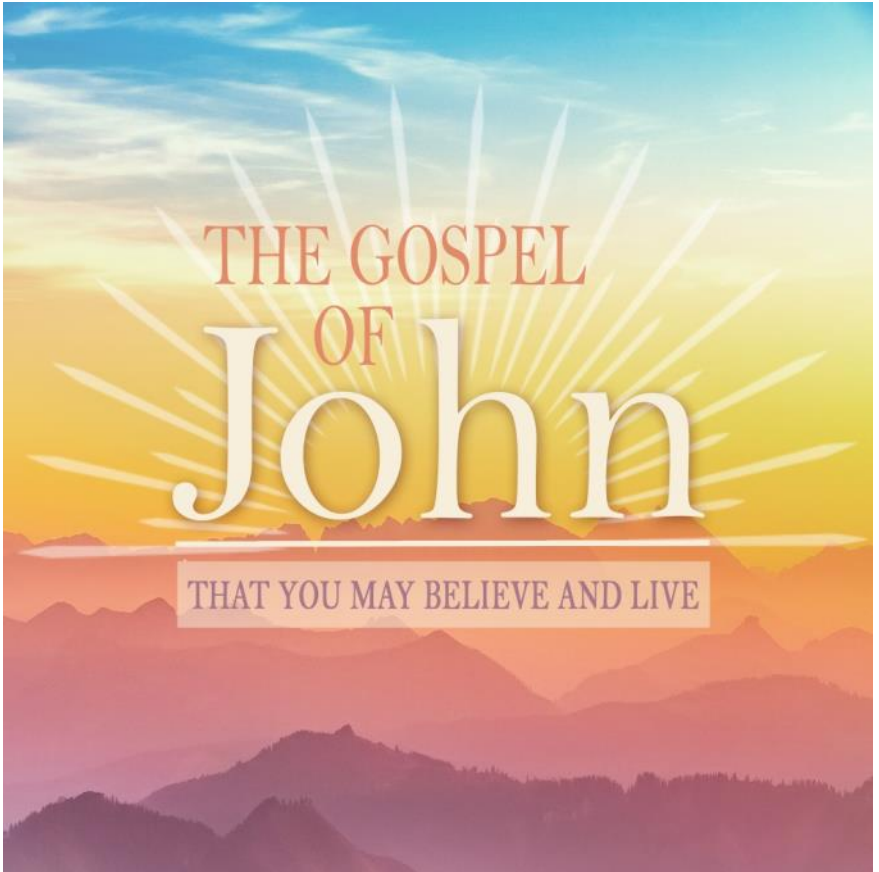




Ascension PCA

September 24, 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

*Almighty One! I bend in dust before Thee;
even so veiled cherubs bend;
In calm and still devotion I adore Thee,
all-wise, all-present Friend!
Thou to the earth its emerald robes hast given,
or curtained it in snow;
And the bright sun, and the soft moon in heaven,
before Thy presence bow.*

~ Sir John Bowring

*Look for Christ and you will find Him,
and with Him, everything else.*

~ 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:1-2, 7-8a, 10 & Psalm 34:3

- M: The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
- P: Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.**
- M: The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
- P: The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.**
- M: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt His Name together!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 19

**The spacious heav's declare
the gory of our God.
The firmament displays
His handiwork abroad;
Day unto day doth utter speech,
and night to night doth knowledge teach.**

**In heav'n He set a tent,
a dwelling for the sun,
which as a mighty man
delights his course to run.
He, bridegoomlike in his array,
comes from his chamber, bringing day.**

**Jehovah's perfect law
restores the soul again;
His testimony sure
gives wisdom unto men.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
and fill the heart with great delight.**

**Let all the words I speak
and all the thoughts within
come up before Thy sight
and Thine approval win.
O Thou Jehovah, unto me
my Rock and my Redeemer be.**

Words based on the *Book of Psalms* (1871) and *The Psalter* (1912).
Music by Music by John Darwall (1770).
Text: © 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Only a Holy God

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God,
Only my Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.**

**Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.**

Words and music by

Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.

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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

Psalms 56

Elder Theo Vander Wel

*To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths.
A Mikdam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.*

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me;
all day long an attacker oppresses me;
- 2 my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many attack me proudly.
- 3 When I am afraid,
I put my trust in You.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?
- 5 All day long they injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They stir up strife, they lurk;
they watch my steps,
as they have waited for my life.
- 7 For their crime will they escape?
In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

- 8 You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in Your bottle.
Are they not in Your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
11 in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
- 12 I must perform my vows to You, O God;
I will render thank offerings to You.
- 13 For You have delivered my soul from death,
yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord, You are the Bread of Life.
Our souls hunger for You.
Without You, our spirits faint.
And yet, we have refused to eat.
We have fed our souls on the husks of the world.
We have numbed our hunger with the delicacies of sin.
We have neglected the Bread of Heaven
which alone sustains us.
And so we are in distress.
We are hungry.
We are weak.
We are powerless in the day of trouble,
for we have forsaken You, the true Bread.
Forgive our sins,
feed our souls again,
and fill us anew with the joy of life in Jesus.**

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

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father — to Jesus be glory and power for ever and ever!

In Him, we are forgiven! Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

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 6:22–40

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal." ²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"

²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." ³⁰ So they said to Him, "Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do You perform?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

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

P: We shall do as our Lord commands.

**We proclaim that our Lord Jesus
was sent by the Father into the world,
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**

**We confess that He was condemned to die
that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.**

**We proclaim that He is risen
to make us right with God
and that He shall come again
in the glory of His new creation.**

This we do now and until He comes again.

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 Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,
crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love!**

*This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!*

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

**May the grace of Christ our Savior,
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor,
rest upon us from above.**

**Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford.**

Words by John Newton (1770). Music by Asahel Nettleton (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN



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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
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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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