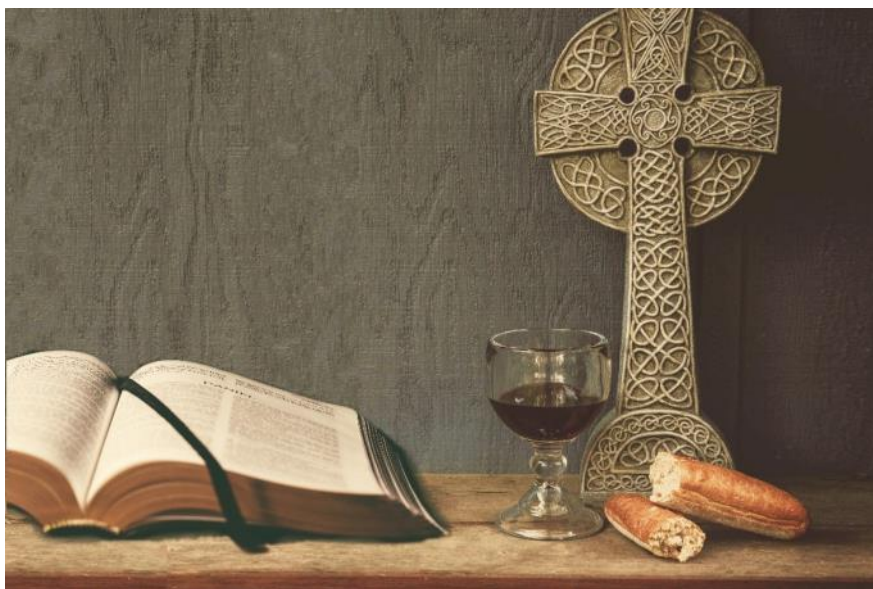




Ascension PCA

February 25, 2024



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

Come close with Mary, Martha, Lazarus,
so close the candles flare with their soft breath,
and kindle heart and soul to flame within us,
lit by these mysteries of life and death.

For beauty now begins the final movement,
in quietness and intimate encounter,
the alabaster jar of precious ointment
is broken open for the world's true Lover.

The whole room richly fills to feast the senses
with all the yearning such a fragrance brings,
the heart is mourning but the spirit dances,
here at the very center of all things,
here at the meeting place of love and loss
we all foresee and see beyond the cross.

~ *Malcolm Guite*

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

Psalm 8

M: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

P: You have set Your glory above the heavens.

M: From the lips of children and infants
You have ordained praise,

**P: because of Your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.**

M: When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

**P: what is man that You are mindful of him,
the son of man that You care for him?**

M: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

**P: You made him ruler over the works of Your hands;
You put everything under his feet:**

M: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

**P: O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Tell Out, My Soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961);

Music by Holly Dutton (2001);

Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company. Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend

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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 71:17-24

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 17 O God, from my youth You have taught me,
and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.
- 18 So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim Your might to another generation,
Your power to all those to come.
- 19 Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like You?
- 20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
You will bring me up again.
- 21 You will increase my greatness
and comfort me again.
- 22 I will also praise You with the harp
for Your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to You with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
- 23 My lips will shout for joy,
when I sing praises to You;
my soul also, which You have redeemed.
- 24 And my tongue will talk of Your righteous help all the day long,
for they have been put to shame and disappointed
who sought to do me hurt.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Merciful Lord,

**You call, but so often we do not follow;
You command, but we do not obey,
You bless us, but we forget to thank You.**

Please forgive and help us.

**Lord, You taught us to pray "Your kingdom come,"
but we are too busy building a kingdom of our own;
You identified yourself with outcasts,
the needy, and the poor,
but we are too busy for others;
You suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we are so often preoccupied with ourselves.**

***Please forgive and help us,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Micah 7:18-19

**L: Who is a God like you, who pardons sin
and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of His inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.**

**P: You will again have compassion on us;
You will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities
into the depths of the sea.**

**M: Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.
God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this my plea:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).
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

Matthew 7:1-12

¹ "Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

⁶ Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

⁷ Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

¹² So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

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.**

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"Seeing with New Eyes"

Rev. David Birnie

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 3:5,9

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding...

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Depth of Mercy

**Depth of mercy! Can there be,
mercy reaching even me?
God, the Just, His wrath forbears,
me the chief of sinners, spares.
So many times my heart has strayed
from His kind and perfect ways;
Making clear my desp'rate need
for His blood —
poured out for me.**

**Give me grace, Lord, let me own
all the wrongs that I have done.
Let me now my sins deplore,
look to You and sin no more.
There, for me, the Savior stands
holding forth His wounded hands,
Scars which ever cry for me;
Once condemned ...
but now set free.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707–1788). Music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise

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

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

M: *"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'*
In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

**P: 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.
Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available from the trays.
Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Rock of Ages

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776).

Music by James Ward (1985).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1985 James Ward Music

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

and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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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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