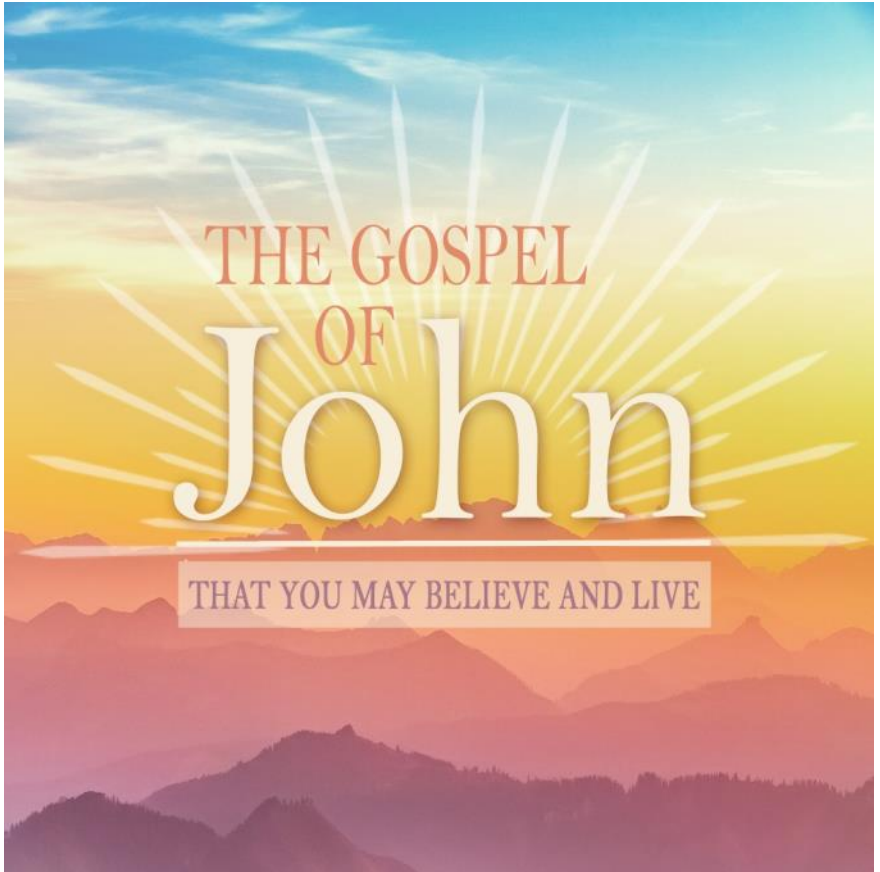




Ascension PCA

April 7, 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

A debtor to mercy alone,
of covenant mercy I sing;
nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
my person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God;
with me can have nothing to do;
my Savior's obedience and blood;
hide all my transgressions from view.
My name from the palms of His hands;
eternity will not erase;
impressed on His heart it remains,
in marks of indelible grace ...
Things future, nor things that are now,
nor all things below or above,
can make Him His purpose forgo,
or sever my soul from His love.

*~ from "A Debtor to Mercy Alone"
by Augustus Toplady*

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

from Ephesians 1

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right to do so.

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ...
for He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.**

**In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us in the One He loves.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

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

The God of Abra'm Praise

**The God of Abra'm praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days
and God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at His right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r;
and Him my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.**

**The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
all might and majesty are Thine
and endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

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 76:1-12

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 In Judah God is known;
His name is great in Israel.
- 2 His abode has been established in Salem,
His dwelling place in Zion.
- 3 There He broke the flashing arrows,
the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. *Selah*
- 4 Glorious are You, more majestic
than the mountains full of prey.
- 5 The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil;
they sank into sleep;
all the men of war
were unable to use their hands.
- 6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both rider and horse lay stunned.
- 7 But You, You are to be feared!
Who can stand before You
when once Your anger is roused?
- 8 From the heavens You uttered judgment;
the earth feared and was still,
- 9 when God arose to establish judgment,
to save all the humble of the earth. *Selah*
- 10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;
the remnant of wrath You will put on like a belt.
- 11 Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them;
let all around Him bring gifts
to Him who is to be feared,
- 12 who cuts off the spirit of princes,
who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father,

**You alone are the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
It is our 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 confess that 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.**

Forgive us.

**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.**

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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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!

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

John 13:18-38

¹⁸ "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate My bread has lifted his heel against Me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the one who sent Me."

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom He spoke. ²³ One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when He had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why He said this to Him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need 'for the feast,' or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once.

³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek Me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?"
Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for You."
³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me three times."

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

"Love & Betrayal"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

*Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.
Philippians 4:18-19*

[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

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.*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Titus 3:3-7

**P: At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived,
and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.
We lived in malice and envy,
being hated and hating one another.**

**But when the kindness and love
of God our Savior appeared, He saved us,
not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of His mercy.**

**He saved us through the washing of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us generously
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

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

How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

**How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"**

**"Why was I made to hear Thy voice,
and enter while there's room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?"**

**'Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send Thy victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Thy churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing Thy redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

PRAYER

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

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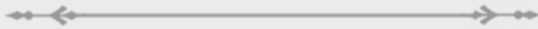
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

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