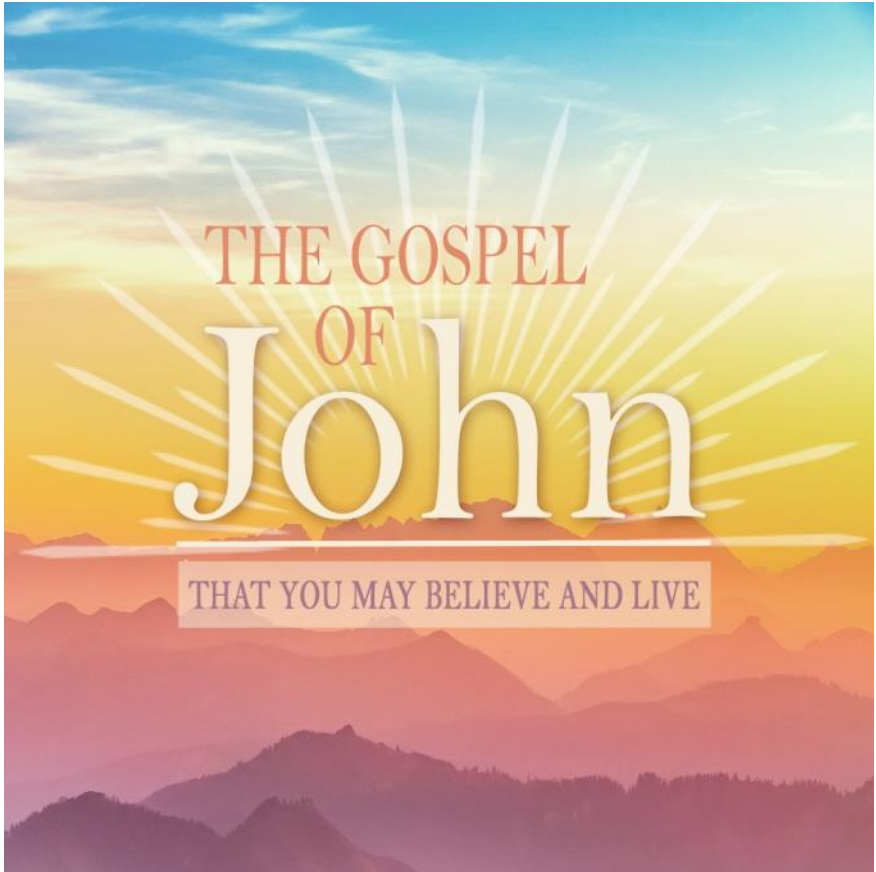




Ascension PCA

May 12, 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

"Abide in Him."

You did well to come; you do better to abide.

Who would, after seeking the King's palace,
be content to stand in the door,
when he is invited in to dwell in the King's presence,
and share with Him in all the glory of His royal life?

Oh, let us enter in and abide,
and enjoy to the full all the rich supply
His wondrous love Hath prepared for us!

~ by Andrew Murray

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 84:1-4

M: How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

**P: My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

M: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

**P: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,
ever singing Your praise!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 66

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,
aloft your voices raise;
sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.
Sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee
and unto Thee shall sing;
and to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.
And to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.**

**O all ye people, bless our God;
aloud proclaim His praise,
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.**

**Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871),
and *The Psalter* (1912).

©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

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

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Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord, to us ...
we're thirsty.**

**Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on the perfect path, O Lord,
and may we ...**

**... sin no more — this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
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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 78:56-72

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 56 Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God
and did not keep His testimonies,
57 but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers;
they twisted like a deceitful bow.
58 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places;
they moved Him to jealousy with their idols.
59 When God heard, He was full of wrath,
and He utterly rejected Israel.
60 He forsook His dwelling at Shiloh,
the tent where He dwelt among mankind,
61 and delivered His power to captivity,
His glory to the hand of the foe.

62 He gave His people over to the sword
and vented His wrath on His heritage.
63 Fire devoured their young men,
and their young women had no marriage song.
64 Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows made no lamentation.
65 Then the LORD awoke as from sleep,
like a strong man shouting because of wine.
66 And He put His adversaries to rout;
He put them to everlasting shame.
67 He rejected the tent of Joseph;
He did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
68 but He chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which He loves.
69 He built His sanctuary like the high heavens,
like the earth, which He has founded forever.
70 He chose David His servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
71 from following the nursing ewes He brought him
to shepherd Jacob His people,
Israel His inheritance.
72 With upright heart He shepherded them
and guided them with His skillful hand.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Wonderful Savior,

**We thank you for Your wondrous grace and love
in bearing our sin in Your body on the cross.**

May Your cross be to us

**the tree that sweetens every bitterness in our lives;
the rod that blossoms with hope and beauty;
the vine that connects us to you,
the only source of all our strength.**

We have died with You,

have risen with You,

and are even now seated with you in heavenly places.

And yet we find that sin continues

to have power over us.

We struggle to fix our eyes on You, to abide in You

and instead follow the ways of the world.

We struggle to choose love for others

over pleasing ourselves.

...

**Forgive us, we pray.
Increase our joy in the cross of Christ,
and our wonder and admiration
for all that was accomplished there,
until our hearts melt
and our self-worship gives way
to delight in our salvation.**

**We pray this in the name of our glorious Redeemer,
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

Psalm 103:11–12 & Romans 8:1

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

**It is my story, my Father's plan.
The Son has rescued me.**

**Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.
My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).
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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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

John 15:1-11

¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

⁹ As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

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

"The True Vine"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

**May the mind of Christ, my Savior
live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.**

**May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925).
Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

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

SONG OF MEDITATION

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut His glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
for man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face
while His dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood
so pure and undefiled,
to make a sinful one like me
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707);
additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997).
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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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Scripture text from

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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

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

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

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