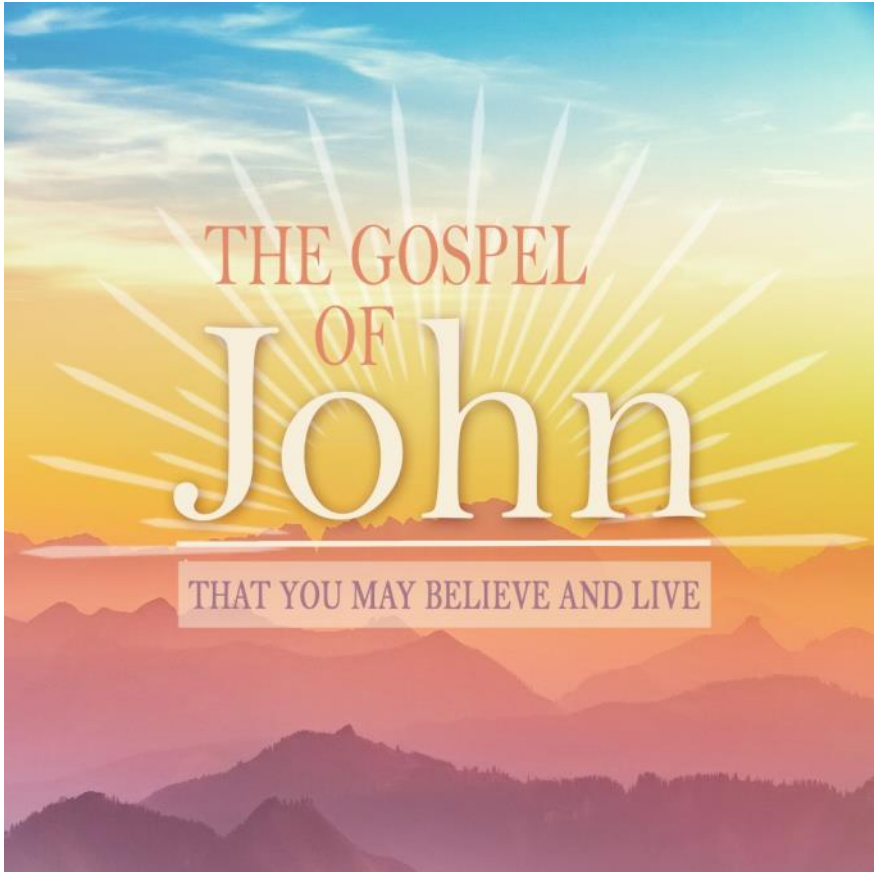




Ascension PCA

May 19, 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

John 15:14 — Jesus says, "You are My friends..."

For sinful men and women like ourselves to be called "friends of Christ" is something that our weak minds can hardly grasp and take in.

The King of kings and Lord of lords not only pities and saves all them that believe in Him,
but actually calls them His "friends."

~ by J.C. Ryle

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 Colossians 2:13-14 and Psalm 32:11

M: 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!

SONGS OF PRAISE

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.
©2016 Farren Love And War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Integrity's Praise! Music,
and CityAight Music

Lord, for Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,
Grant Cunningham (1998)
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

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 79:1-13

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance;
they have defiled Your holy temple;
they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have given the bodies of Your servants
to the birds of the heavens for food,
the flesh of Your faithful to the beasts of the earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors,
mocked and derided by those around us.
- 5 How long, O LORD? Will You be angry forever?
Will Your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out Your anger on the nations
that do not know You,
and on the kingdoms
that do not call upon Your name!
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob
and laid waste his habitation.
- 8 Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
let Your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of Your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for Your name's sake!
- 10 Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of Your servants
be known among the nations before our eyes!
- 11 Let the groans of the prisoners come before You;
according to Your great power, preserve those doomed to die!
- 12 Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors
the taunts with which they have taunted You, O LORD!
- 13 But we Your people, the sheep of Your pasture,
will give thanks to You forever;
from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.

THE LAW OF GOD

Matthew 22:36–40

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?
And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two
commandments depend all the Law and the prophets."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from The Valley of Vision

**P: O LORD GOD, teach me to know that grace
precedes, accompanies, and follows my salvation,
that it sustains the redeemed soul,
that no one link of its chain can ever break.
How great are my privileges in Christ Jesus!
Without Him I stand far off, a stranger, an outcast;
in Him I draw near and touch His kingly scepter.
Without Him I dare not lift my guilty eyes;
in Him I gaze upon my Father-God and Friend.
Without Him I hide my lips in trembling shame;
in Him I open my mouth in petition and praise.
Praise be to Thee for grace
and for the unspeakable gift of 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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 2:13; 3:12

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ ...
in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence
through our faith in Him.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

All My Boast is in Jesus

**What wonder of wonders, what love is this
that Christ would die for me?
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness,
this sinner's only plea.
O foolish pride, be crucified,
the work is finished.**

*All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

**Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
with graces undeserved.
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill,
let praises now return.
Rise up my soul and bless the Lord.
Who else is worthy?**

*All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

*O praise the One, forever blessed.
Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

*O praise the One, forever blessed.
Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less
than the love of Christ, my Lord.*

**I boast not in riches, in strength or might,
but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
in plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me.**

*All my boast is in Jesus.
All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever
in what the cross has done.*

***Now I stand in His freedom,
ransomed clean in His sight.
And I cannot be ashamed for
my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ.
Forever my boast is Jesus Christ.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
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Publishing; Messenger Hymns; Be Essential Songs; bryanfowersongs

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 15:12-17

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

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 Flowing from Friendship"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!

**Jesus, what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

**Jesus, I do now receive Him,
more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.**

***Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

***Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.***

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman (1910).
Music by Rowland H. Pritchard (1855).
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

Romans 5:1-8

**P: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through Him we have also obtained access by faith
into this grace in which we stand,
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
and hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person —
though perhaps for a good person
one would dare even to die —
but God shows His love for us
in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

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.*

PRAYER | MEDITATION

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

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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Holy Bible, **New International Version®**, NIV®

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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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