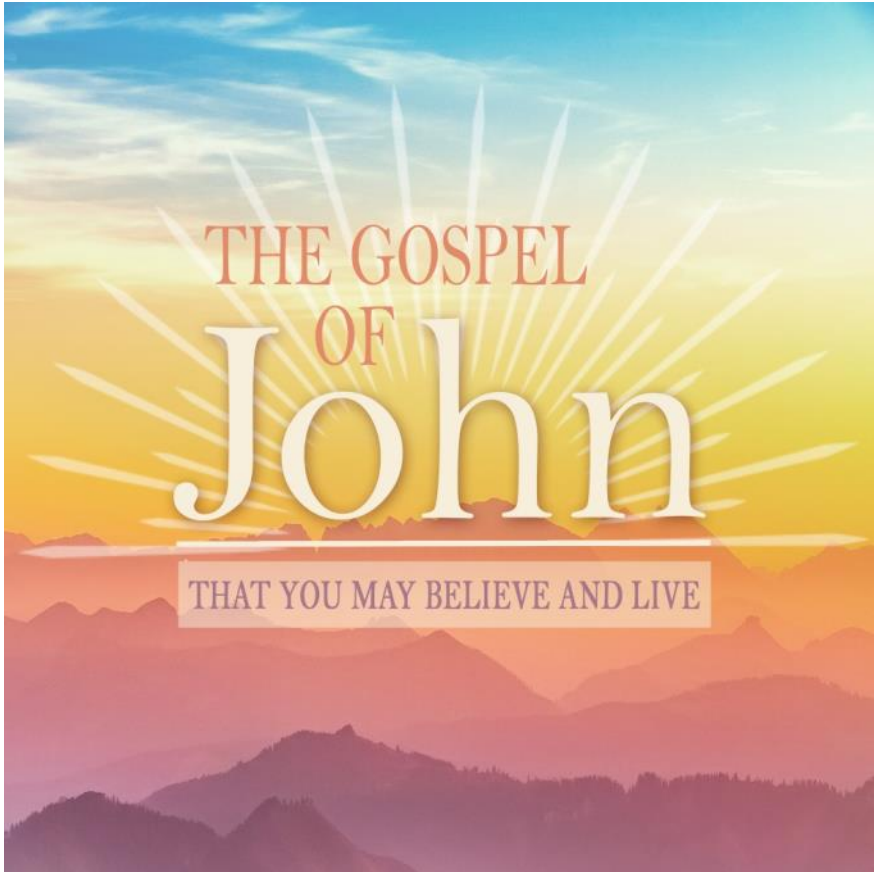




Ascension PCA

May 26, 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

Hear the promises of Jesus...

“The world hates you, but I love you.

The world is your enemy, but I am your friend.

The world gives you trouble and anxiety, but I give you My peace.

The world will cause you sorrow, but I give you My joy.

The world may kill you, but I give you eternal life.

The world is under Satan’s power,

but you will have the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you.”

~ by John MacArthur

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 73:1-3, 16-17, 25-28

M: Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**P: But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.**

M: Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**P: For behold, those who are far from You shall perish;
You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to You.
But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all Your works.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.***

**The sun comes up,
it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass,
and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.*

**You're rich in love,
and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness,
I will keep on singing:
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.*

**And on that day
when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing
Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name.*

Words and music by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin
©2011 Atlas Mountain Songs; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music;
worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

Come, Thou Almighty King

**Come, thou Almighty King,
help us Thy name to sing,
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
gird on Thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend.
Come, and Thy people bless,
and give Thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.**

**Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.**

Words Anonymous (ca. 1757). Music by Felice de Giardini (1769).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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 80:1-19

Elder Philip Suh

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God;
let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
8 You brought a vine out of Egypt;
You drove out the nations and planted it.
9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
10 The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
11 It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
12 Why then have You broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
13 The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.
14 Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
15 the stock that Your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for Yourself.
16 They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of Your face!
17 But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
18 Then we shall not turn back from You;
give us life, and we will call upon Your name!
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Merciful Lord,

**We confess that with us there is an abundance of sin,
but in You there is the fullness of righteousness
and abundance of mercy.**

**We are spiritually poor,
but You are rich and in Jesus Christ
came to be merciful to the poor.**

Strengthen our faith and trust in You.

We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us.

We are weak in faith; strengthen us.

We are cold in love; warm us,

**And make our hearts fervent for You
that our love may go out to one another
and to our neighbors.
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

Almighty God, Who freely pardons all who repent
and turn to You,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace,
cancelling all our sins,
and cleansing us from an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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 15:18–16:4a

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember

the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated Me without a cause.'

²⁶ But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

¹ I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor Me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you."

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

"Hated by the World"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalms 50:12,14-15

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are Mine.
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
and call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

He Will Hold Me Fast

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.**

**I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.**

**He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied,
He will hold me fast.**

**Raised with Him to endless life;
He will hold me fast;
'till our faith is turned to sight,
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918).

Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).

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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

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

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)

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
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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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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