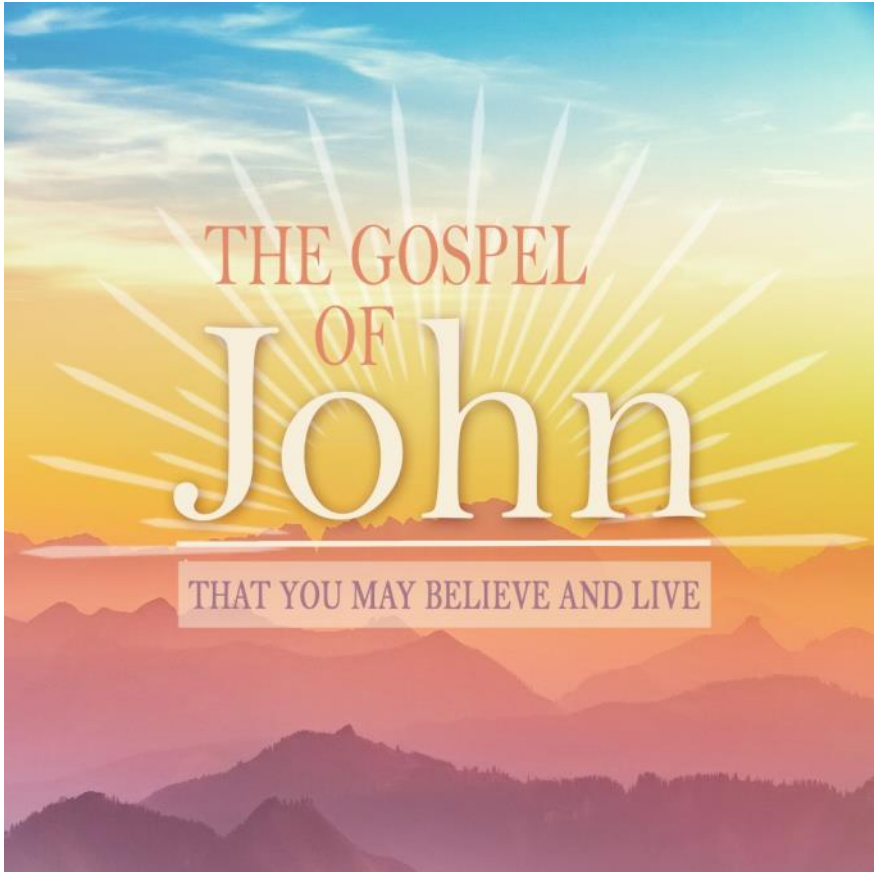




Ascension PCA

June 2, 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

“This God, to whom there is none in heaven to be compared, nor any among the sons of the mighty to be likened — this God who is from everlasting to everlasting, an infinitely powerful, wise, holy, and lovely being, who is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, is *your* God.

He is reconciled to you and has become your friend. There is a friendship between you and the Almighty. You have become acquainted with Him, and He has made known Himself to you, and communicates Himself to you, converses with you as a friend, dwells with you, and in you, by His Holy Spirit...

...The consideration of having such a glorious God for your God, your friend, your Father, and your portion, and that you shall eternally enjoy Him as such, is enough to make you despise all worldly afflictions and adversities, and even death itself, and to trample them under your feet.”

~ by Jonathan Edwards

# 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

**P: Almighty God,**

**Lord of heaven dwelling beyond all place and time,  
eternal and infinite You are,  
beyond our grasp and control.**

**Blessed is Your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

**By Your grace,**

**Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit,  
that we might worship You in spirit and truth.**

**Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit  
that though we cannot see You,  
we might know You in our hearts.**

**Pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit  
that Your truth be indwelling,  
a fountain of living water  
welling up to eternal life.**

**To You be all praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Eternally one God.**

**Through Jesus, our Lord, we plead, Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 57:15*

**M: For this is what the high and lofty One says,  
He who lives forever, whose name is Holy:**

*"I live in a high and holy place,  
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly,  
and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *Behold Our God*

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.  
All creation rises to rejoice.**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore Him!***

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore Him!***

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave,  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore ...***

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.***

***Come, let us adore Him.***

***Behold our King! Nothing can compare.***

***Come, let us adore Him!***

Words and music by  
Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)  
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

## *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,  
precious Redeemer, and Friend;  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
hopelessly lost the way.  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

**Almighty, infinite Father,  
faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us  
falling before Your throne.  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

***You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.  
© 1989 Word Music ASCAP & Dayspring Music BME

## **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 81:1-16*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- 2 Raise a song; sound the tambourine,  
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- 4 For it is a statute for Israel,  
a rule of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He made it a decree in Joseph  
when He went out over the land of Egypt.  
I hear a language I had not known:
- 6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden;  
your hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 In distress you called, and I delivered you;  
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
- 8 Hear, O My people, while I admonish you!  
O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!
- 9 There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
- 10 I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- 11 But My people did not listen to My voice;  
Israel would not submit to Me.
- 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,  
to follow their own counsels.
- 13 Oh, that My people would listen to Me,  
that Israel would walk in My ways!
- 14 I would soon subdue their enemies  
and turn My hand against their foes.
- 15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward Him,  
and their fate would last forever.
- 16 But He would feed you with the finest of the wheat,  
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

*Selah*

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: God of mercy and grace,  
who poured out Your Spirit upon us,  
we confess that we have grieved You.  
You promised to be Living Water springing up in us,  
but we have been content with  
the mud holes of our souls.  
You promised to give us gifts for service  
in Your Church,  
but we have too often only cared to serve ourselves.  
You have given diverse gifts to the members  
of Your Body,  
but we have withheld them from those  
who are different from us.  
You promised to empower us to be witnesses,  
but we have at times preferred to hide in silence.  
Rushing wind, blow through this temple,  
blowing out the dust within.  
Come and breathe Your breath upon us,  
we've been born again.  
Through Jesus, our Savior. 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 Psalm 32*

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
I acknowledged my sin to You,  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and You forgave the guilt of my sin.



## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*O Love that Will Not Let Me Go*

**O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in Thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.**

Words by George Matheson (1882). Music by Christopher Miner (1997)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN; music: ©1997 Miner, Christopher

## 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 16:4b-15*

<sup>4b</sup> "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it 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

*"The Work of the Spirit"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 24:1*

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world and all who live in it.

*Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.*

## SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

### *Be Thou My Vision*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all...  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),  
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)  
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)  
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 Nicene Creed*

**P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds;**

**God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;  
we acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.**

## **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

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
changeth never, nevermore.  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).  
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)  
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

***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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