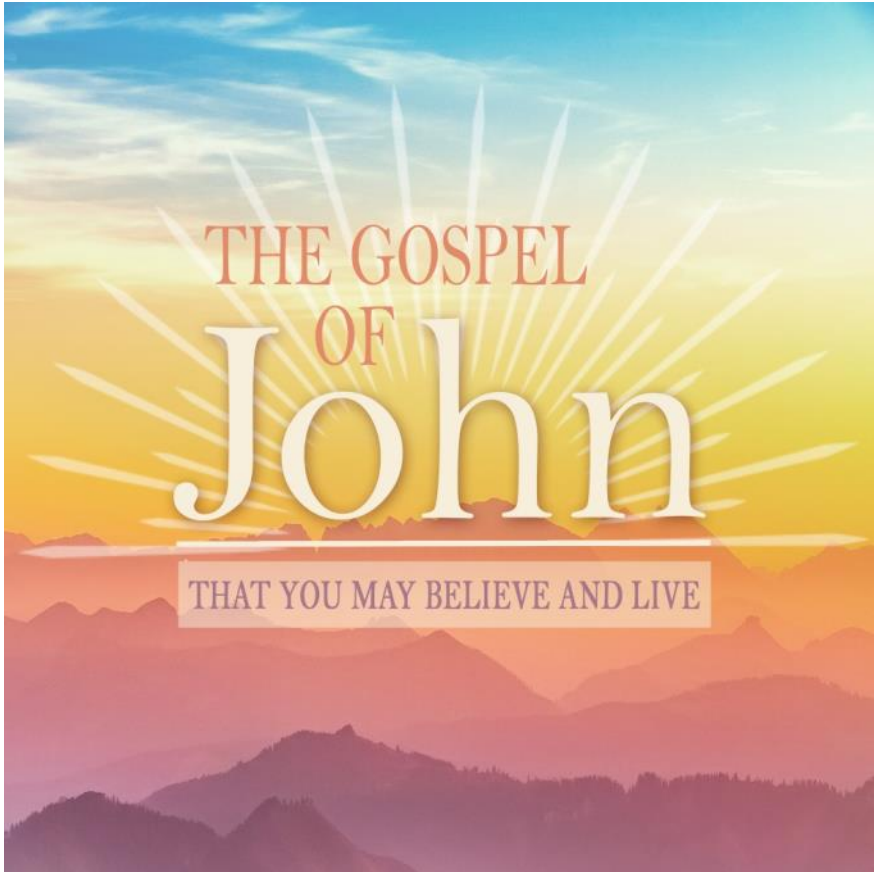




Ascension PCA

June 9, 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

O Source of all good,
what shall I render to Thee for the gift of gifts,
Thine own dear Son, begotten, not created,
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,
His self-emptying incomprehensible,
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
and enlarge my mind.

Let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father.

Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,
embrace Him with undying faith,
exulting that He is mine and I am His.

~ *"The Gift of Gifts" from the Valley of Vision*

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: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.

**P: 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.**

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.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Glory to You, O LORD, most high.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 104

**My soul bless the LORD! LORD God You are great!
With honor arrayed, majestic in state,
You cover Yourself with a garment of light,
and stretch out the sky as a curtain by night.**

**The beams of Your courts in waters You laid;
on wings of the wind, Your pathway You made.
The clouds are Your chariot; the winds do Your will;
the flames and the lightnings Your pleasure fulfill.**

**I'll sing to the LORD, as long as I live,
sing praise to my God while life He will give.
My vast thoughts about Him will pleasure afford,
for I am rejoicing each day in the LORD.**

Words from Psalm 104; *The Trinity Psalter*.

Music by Johan Michael Haydn (1737–1806).

Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore Him;
praise Him angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
praise Him, all ye stars of light.**

**Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken
for their guidance He hath made.**

***All creation join the song of praise.
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
all of our days!***

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;
never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.**

***All creation join the song of praise.
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
all of our days!***

***Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!
Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!
Glory, glory, all glory to You, Lord!***

**Praise the God of our salvation!
hosts on high, His power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation
laud and magnify His Name!**

**All creation join the song of praise.
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways,
and we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
all of our days!
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
all of our days!**

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 82

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 God has taken His place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods He holds judgment:
- 2 "How long will You judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
- 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 I said, "You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;
- 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince."
- 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for You shall inherit all the nations!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from John 14:9 & Matthew 13:13-17

P: Heavenly Father, have mercy on us.

**We have seen Your Son, but our eyes are dim.
We have heard Him, but our ears are dull.
We have known Him, but our hearts are faint.**

**Comfort and pride blind us.
Lusts and fears deafen us.
Laziness and distractions occupy us.
Careless hearts deaden us.**

**So we hear, but we do not understand.
And we see, but we do not perceive.
We know, but we do not obey.**

**Have mercy on us and heal us.
Give us eyes to see and ears to hear
the Christ, the Son of God. 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

Hebrews 10:10; Heidelberg Catechism A 66

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. This is God's promise: to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
Every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.**

**Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You calmed the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered,
that the guilty may go free.**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Arise, My Soul, Arise

**Arise, my soul, arise!
Shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice
in my behalf appears.**

*Before the throne my surety stands.
Before the throne my surety stands.
My name is written on His hands.*

**He ever lives above,
for me, to intercede.
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead.**

*His blood atoned for every race.
His blood atoned for every race.
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.*

**Five bleeding wounds He bears,
received on Calvary.
They pour effectual prayers,
they strongly plead for me.**

*"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry.
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry.
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"*

**My God is reconciled,
His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child,
I can no longer fear.**

*With confidence I now draw nigh.
With confidence I now draw nigh.
And "Father, Abba, Father" cry.*

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Trudy E. Poirier (2000).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2000 Pear Tree Music.

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 16:16-33

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me." ¹⁷ So some of His disciples said to one another, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father?'" ¹⁸ So they were saying, "What does He mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what He is

talking about.”¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me?’²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.²³ In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you.²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God.²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said, “Ah, now You are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!”³⁰ Now we know that You know all things and do not need anyone to question You; this is why we believe that You came from God.”³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me.³³ I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

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

“Joy Invincible: Part II”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land
where my possessions lie.**

**O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
are felt and feared no more.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**When I shall reach that happy place
I'll be forever blest
for I shall see my Father's face
and in His bosom rest.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

Words by Samuel Stennet (1787). Music by Christopher Miner (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1997 Getty Music Hymns and Songs

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

*based on Matthew 16:16, Mark 16:9, John 20:28,
1 Corinthians 15:1–6, Revelation 22:13 & Romans 8*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
that He was buried,
that He was raised on the third day,
and that He appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.**

**Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God.**

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,**

**nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy,
to the crimson, perpetual tide;
kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more,
go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain;
sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,
cleanse your heart and your soul
in the fountain that flows
for you and for me and for all.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**On the hillside you will be delivered,
at the foot of the cross justified;
and your spirit restored
by the river that pours
from our blessed Savior's side.**

***At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... on that beautiful, scandalous night.***

Words and music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong
© 1995 Never Say Never Songs

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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