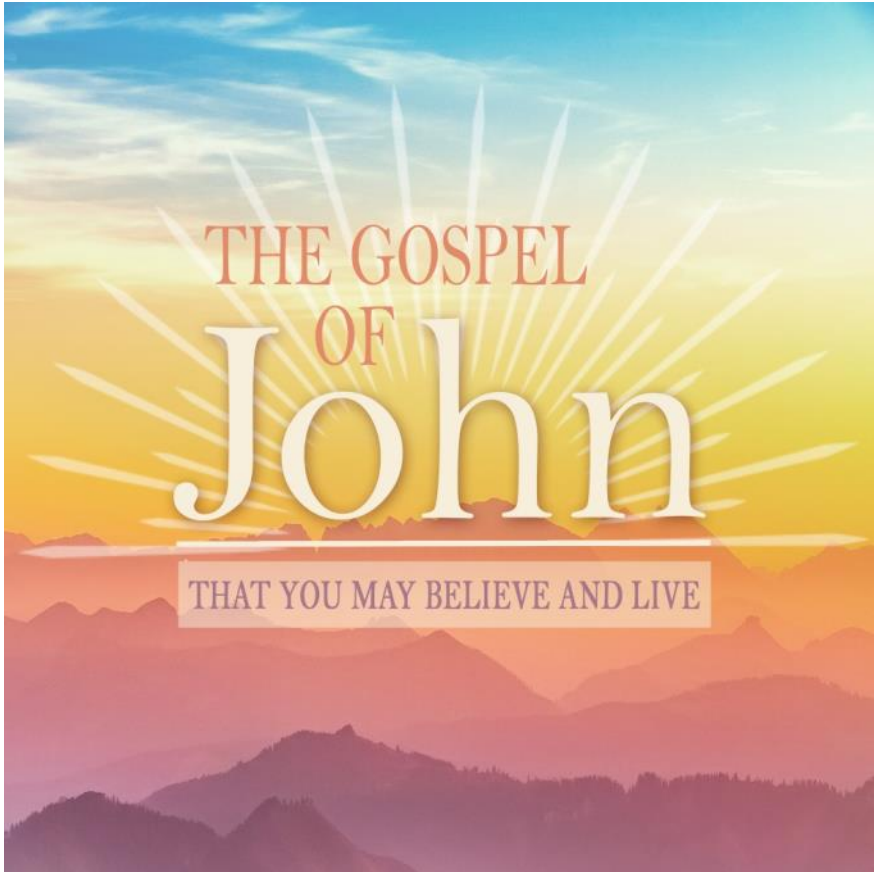




Ascension PCA

June 23, 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**

Precious Jesus, let me go to the place where Your people pray.  
Let me hear Your voice, inviting us to be with You.

I will follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

I will follow You to the place where Your people gather.

I will wait to see my God and King in His sanctuary.

My soul thirsts for You, as a deer thirsts for cooling streams.

And when I join Your people in the place where we pray,  
may Your grace and Holy Spirit fire my soul with a foretaste  
of that glorious assembly that keeps an eternal Sabbath above —  
the place where the everlasting praises of God and of the Lamb  
will grip and fill my raptured soul with joy unspeakable  
and glory to all eternity. Amen.

*~ Robert Hawker*

# 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

*Colossians 1:15–20 & Psalm 145:1*

M: [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For by Him all things were created,  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities —  
all things were created through Him and for Him.  
And He is before all things,  
and in Him all things hold together.  
And He is the head of the body, the church.  
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,  
that in everything He might be preeminent.  
For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through Him to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
making peace by the blood of His cross.

**P: We will extol you, our God and King,  
and bless Your Name forever and ever!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Is He Worthy?*

Do you feel the world is broken? **(We do)**  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? **(We do)**  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through? **(We do)**  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **(We do)**

Is all creation groaning? **(It is)**  
Is a new creation coming? **(It is)**  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
the light within our midst? **(It is)**  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **(It is)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is!***

Does the Father truly love us? ***(He does)***

Does the Spirit move among us? ***(He does)***

And does Jesus, our Messiah,  
hold forever those He loves? ***(He does)***

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? ***(He does)***

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***From ev'ry people and tribe,  
every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
to reign with the Son.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy, is He worthy,  
is He worthy of this? He is!***

***Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!***

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).  
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### *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all;  
hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,  
on this terrestrial ball  
to Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all;  
to Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at His feet may fall;  
we'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all;  
we'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).  
Music by Oliver Holden (1793).  
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

*Psalm 84:1-12*

*Elder Brett Chase*

- 1 How lovely is Your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.
- 3 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.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,  
ever singing Your praise!

*Selah*

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in You,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
6 As they go through the Valley of Baca  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.  
7 They go from strength to strength;  
each one appears before God in Zion.  
8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*  
9 Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of Your anointed!  
10 For a day in Your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does He withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.  
12 O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in You!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Holy One, we confess that we are a people  
who so often do not trust You.**

**We can be stubborn and rebellious,  
habitually unwilling to hear Your loving,  
fatherly instruction.**

**We have repeatedly despised Your words,  
even despising Your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.**

**We have carried out our own plans for our lives,  
disregarding Your loving plan,  
or treating it as second best  
when that plan involves pain  
or not getting what we want.**

**We have trusted in our desires  
for physical and emotional comfort,  
approval from others, health, wealth,  
success, or intimacy.**

**Help us, our Father, to trust You  
in the midst of this earthly life.**

**We grow weary as we fight against the sin in our hearts  
and in the hearts of others.**

**Help us to find our all in all in no less  
than Jesus Christ Himself.  
In His name we pray, 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

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,  
to all who turn to God in hope,  
this is God's Word of grace:

*In Jesus, you are accepted, you are forgiven, you are loved.*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***



# 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 17:6-19*

<sup>6</sup> "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

## 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

*"A People Prayed For"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 111:1*

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

## SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

*Before the Throne of God Above*

**Before the throne of God above**

**I have a strong and perfect plea:  
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,  
my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart;  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there,  
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died  
my sinful soul is counted free,  
for God, the Just, is satisfied  
to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997).  
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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.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### **CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER**

*from Philippians 2*

**P: Christ Jesus, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God  
something to be grasped,  
but made Himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself  
and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!**

**Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place  
and gave Him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

#### **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

### *Refiner's Fire*

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold  
and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold,  
pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.***

***I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from within  
and make me holy.**

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from my sin,  
deep within.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.***

***I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.***

***I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

Words and music by Brian Doerksen (1990).

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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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### **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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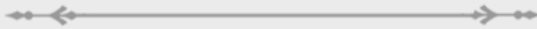
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## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

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(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*