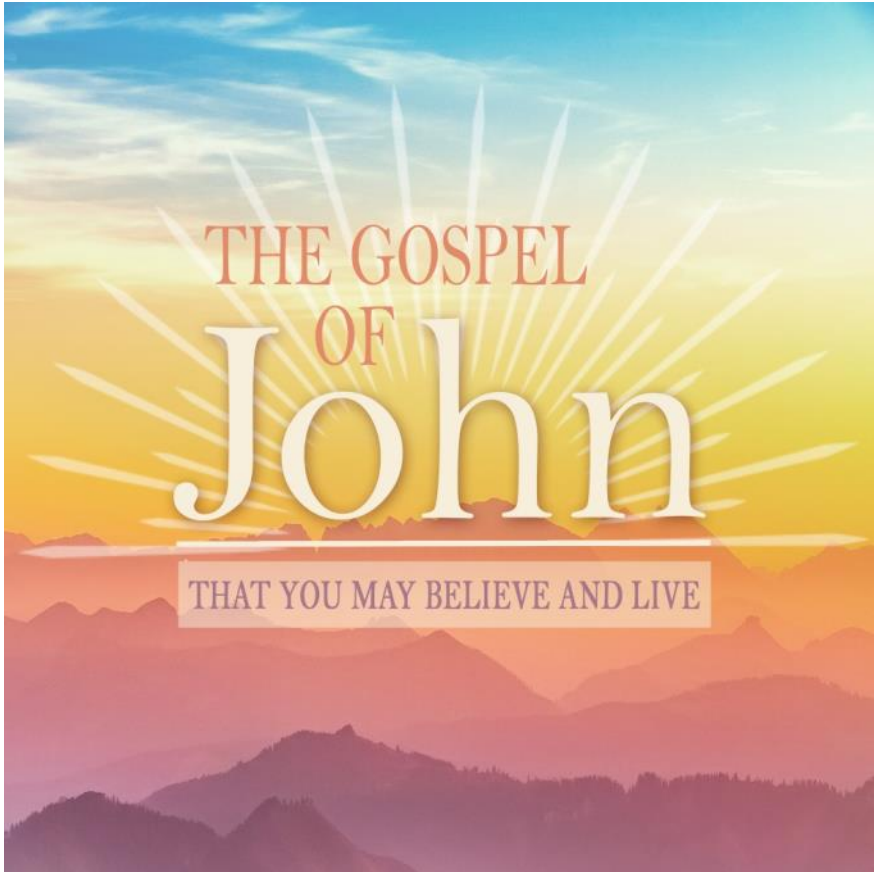




Ascension PCA

June 30, 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

If we were to learn again something of the praise and adoration that is due the triune God at break of day,

God the Father and Creator, who has preserved our life through the dark night and wakened us to a new day,

God the Son and Savior, who conquered death and hell for us and dwells in our midst as Victor,

God the Holy Spirit, who pours the bright gleam of God's Word into our hearts at the dawn of day,

driving away all darkness and sin

and teaching us to pray aright —

then we would also begin to sense something of the joy that comes when night is past and brethren who dwell together in unity

come together early in the morning

for common praise of their God,

common hearing of the Word, and common prayer.

Morning does not belong to the individual,

it belongs to the Church of the triune God,

to the Christian family, to the brotherhood.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD, the compassionate and gracious
God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness,
rebellion, and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us new birth
into a living hope.**

M: So as a church family we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
He has demonstrated the riches of His mercy to us.
Praise be to the merciful God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Our Great God

**Eternal God, unchanging,
mysterious and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing,
in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
around Your glorious throne;
they raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.**

**Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Let every creature in the sea
and every flying bird,
let every mountain, every field,
and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe
sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.
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PUBLIC DOMAIN

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend
© 2012 Getty Music Publishing, Parakeet Boots Music, Townend Songs

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 85

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.
- 3 You withdrew all Your wrath;
You turned from Your hot anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away Your indignation toward us!
- 5 Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?
- 7 Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us Your salvation.
- 8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.
- 9 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Selah

- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before Him
and make His footsteps a way.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, in You we live and move
and have our being;
where could we go from Your presence?
You know all things, nothing is hidden from Your sight.
You know then, that it is from the shadows of
our sinfulness that we look to You this morning.
O, how we praise You for the light of the gospel
by which You have penetrated our dark world,
paid our awful debt of sin, and brought us to Yourself.
O Lord, forgive our sins and renew us
in our relationship to You.
Cause us to walk in the light as You are in the light,
that we might once again enjoy true fellowship
with You, our God, and with one another.
In Jesus' 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

1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

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 17:20-26

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. ²² The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. ²⁶ I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

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

"Called to be One"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation
by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864).
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

1 Peter 2

P: We believe:

**We are a chosen people,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
a people belonging to God,
that we may declare the praises
of Him who called us out of darkness
into His wonderful light.
Once we were not a people,
but now we are the people of God;
once we had not received mercy,
but now we have received mercy.**

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

Jesus, Strong and Kind

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

***For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.
Jesus, strong and kind.***

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Colin Buchanan.
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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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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

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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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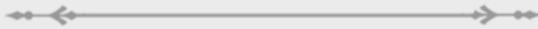
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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