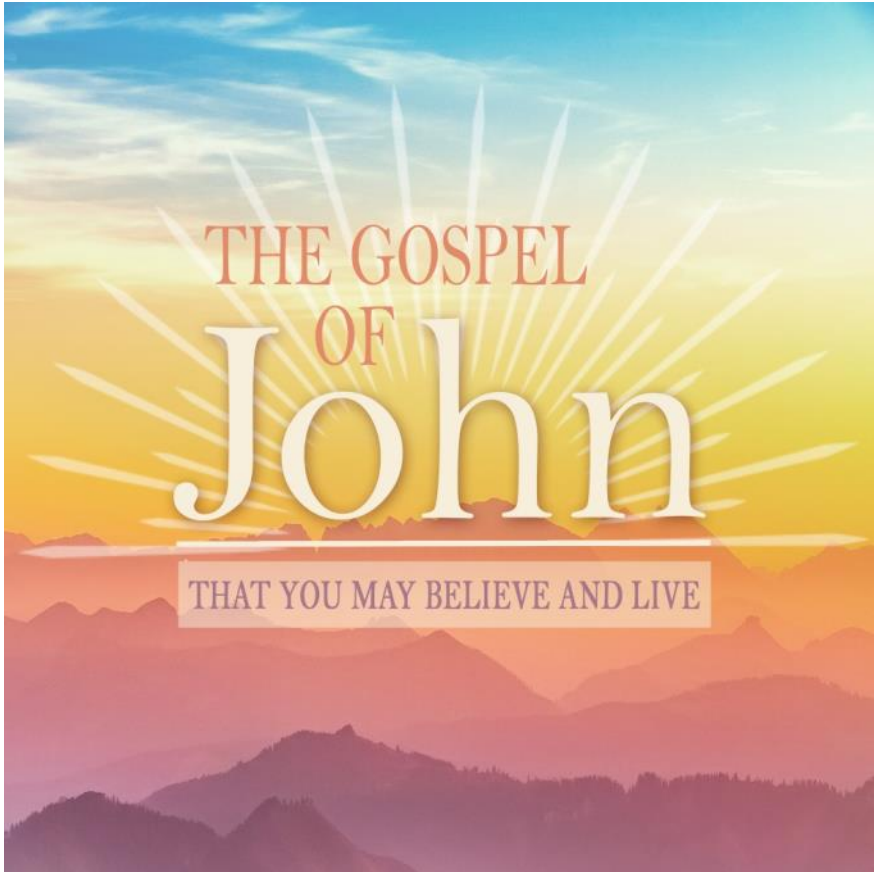




Ascension PCA

July 21, 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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel 2:20–22 & Psalm 95:6–7

- L: Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are His.
He changes times and seasons;
He sets up kings and deposes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
- P: He reveals deep and hidden things;
He knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with Him.**
- L: Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
- P: For He is our God
and we are the people of His pasture,
the sheep of His hand.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

**Rejoice, the Lord is King;
your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains
He took His seat above.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
and take His servants up
to their eternal home.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Words by Charles Wesley (1744); Music by John Darwall (1770).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.*

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.*

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God,
Only my Holy God!

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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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

Psalm 88

Elder Theo Vander Wel

- 1 O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before You.
- 2 Let my prayer come before You;
incline Your ear to my cry!
- 3 For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
- 4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,
5 like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom You remember no more,
for they are cut off from Your hand.
- 6 You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
- 7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and You overwhelm me with all Your waves.

Selah

- 8 You have caused my companions to shun me;
You have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
9 my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call upon You, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to You.
10 Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise You? *Selah*
11 Is Your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or Your faithfulness in Abaddon?
12 Are Your wonders known in the darkness,
or Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
13 But I, O LORD, cry to You;
in the morning my prayer comes before You.
14 O LORD, why do You cast my soul away?
Why do You hide Your face from me?
15 Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer Your terrors; I am helpless.
16 Your wrath has swept over me;
Your dreadful assaults destroy me.
17 They surround me like a flood all day long;
they close in on me together.
18 You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

from Psalm 51

- P: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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 FORGIVENESS

Galatians 1:3-5

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles,
and sing to Your name."

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace...

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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
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worshipitogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

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

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

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us — and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.**

**So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
torn for you — eat and remember:
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
paid the price to make us one.**

**So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.**

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you — drink and remember:
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.**

**So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.**

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond — and to remember:
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.**

**As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.**

**As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.**

Words and music Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.
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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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Scripture text from

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
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
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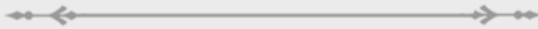
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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