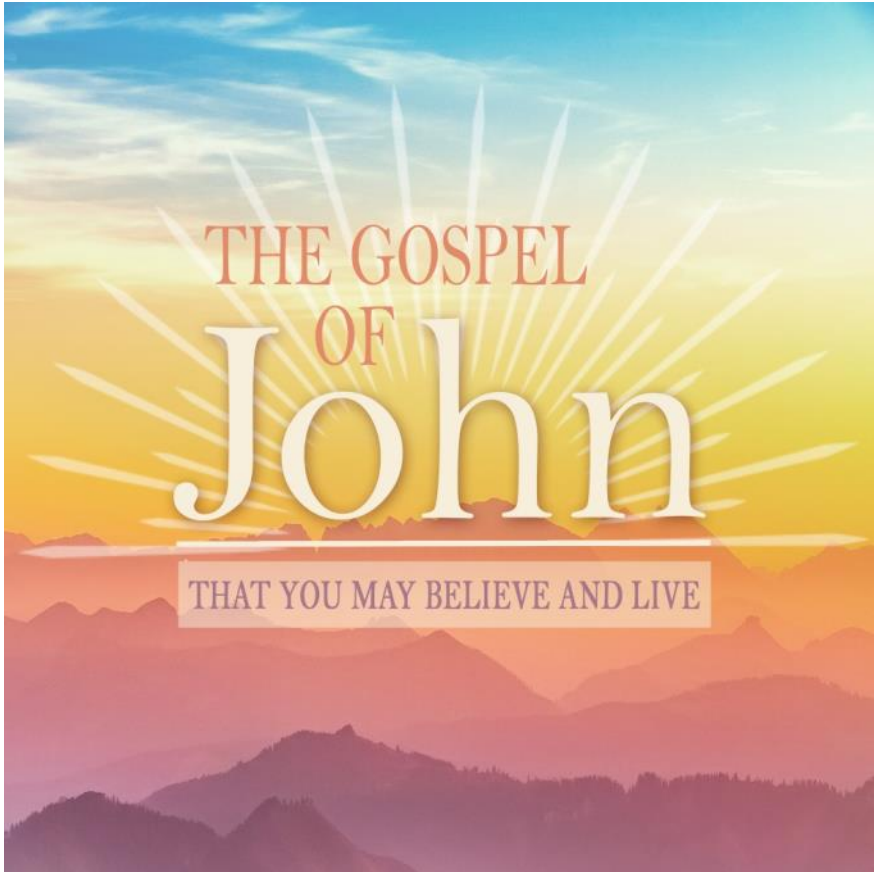




Ascension PCA

August 18, 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

*The resurrection assures us
that when Jesus claimed to be
God's promised Rescuer
and when He claimed to have
the divine authority to forgive repentant sinners
who put their trust in Him,
He spoke the truth.*

*If He had been lying,
He would not be sitting at the right hand of God
but suffering the penalty due Him
for deceiving millions of people
into trusting a false messiah.*

*Instead, He was "declared to be the Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
by His resurrection from the dead." (Romans 1:4).*

*The resurrection is God's stamp of approval
on Jesus' claim to be our Lord and Savior.*

~ John Ensor

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

**P: Praise be to the LORD,
for He has showed His wonderful love to us!** *(Psalm 31:21)*

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead. *(1 Peter 1:3)*

**P: Praise be to the name of God forever and ever;
wisdom and power are His!** *(Daniel 2:20)*

M: Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law. *(1 Corinthians 15:55-56)*

**P: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ!** *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

M: Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name
that is above every name. *(Philippians 2:9)*

**P: Praise be to His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth
be filled with His glory!** *(Psalm 72:19)*

M: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. *(Colossians 3:1)*

**P: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!**

M: Let all the people say...

P: Amen! *(Psalm 106:48)*

**All: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad
and give Him the glory!** *(Revelation 19:6-7)*

SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens,
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation
when You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Szczebel, Todd Twining.
Music by Joel Szczebel, Todd Twining.
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus bringing life to man.
Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward,
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).
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 90

Elder Brett Chase

- 1 LORD, You have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in Your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- 7 For we are brought to an end by Your anger;
by Your wrath we are dismayed.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before You,
our secret sins in the light of Your presence.
- 9 For all our days pass away under Your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of Your anger,
and Your wrath according to the fear of You?
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on Your servants!
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 Let Your work be shown to Your servants,
and Your glorious power to their children.
- 17 Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

A Disciple's Renewal (revised) from The Valley of Vision

P: O God of mercy, help us.

**We are so slow to learn,
so prone to forget,
so weak to climb.**

**We are pained by our graceless hearts,
our prayerless days,
our poverty of love,
our sloth in the heavenly race,
our wasted hours,
our unspent opportunities.**

Forgive us, O Lord.

**Give us an increase and progress in grace
so that there may be
more decision in our characters,
more vigor in our purposes,
more elevation in our lives,
more fervor in our devotion,
more constancy in our zeal.**

**For the glory of Your Name,
and in the Name of Jesus 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 FORGIVENESS

from Romans 4:24-25 and 8:1

God accounts all sinners who confess the Name of Christ
and believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead
as sinless. He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

In Him our sins are forgiven...

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Glorious Hope

**Though waves of troubles come
and pour in like a flood,
my soul will not despair.
Within Your sovereign arms,
no valley is too dark
to keep me from Your care.
Your presence and Your promises
are joy and life to me.**

***Jesus, You're my glorious hope;
ever faithful to Your own.
You have filled my nights
with Your sweet song of grace.
Jesus You're my glorious hope;
my glorious hope.***

**When condemnations rise,
when failures fill my eyes,
remind me once again:
That my sufficiency
is found upon the tree
that bought my righteousness.
The depth of Your unchanging love,
displayed on Calvary.**

***Jesus, You're my glorious hope;
ever faithful to Your own.
You have filled my nights
with Your sweet song of grace.
Jesus You're my glorious hope;
my glorious hope.***

Music and words by Steve and Vicki Cook (2003).
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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

John 20:1-18

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that He had said these things to her.

GLORIA PATRI

**Gloria 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

"His Heart Beats"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received, freely give.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

**It is my story, my Father's plan.
The Son has rescued me.**

**Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.
My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).
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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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

from 1 Corinthians 15

- M: If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
- P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are to be pitied more than all men.**
- M: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
- P: For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.
But each in his own turn:
Christ, the firstfruits;
then, when He comes,
those who belong to Him.**

**Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"**
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.*

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.*

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); alt. Music by Jonathan Eck (2023).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2023 Jonathan Eck

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

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

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