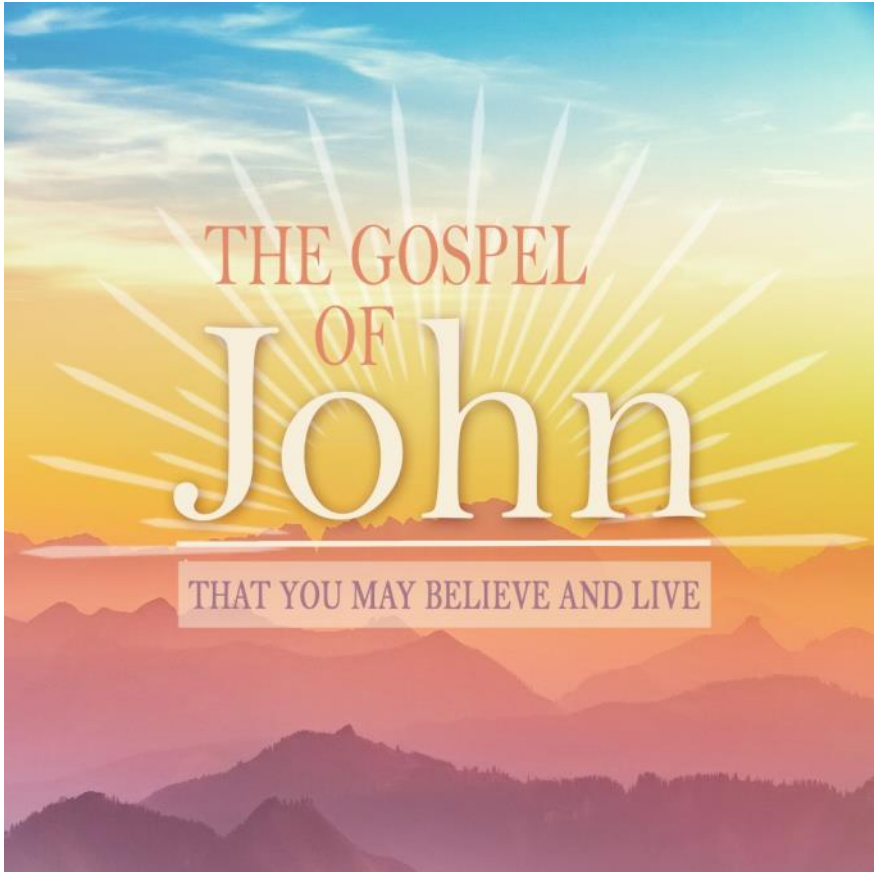




Ascension PCA

September 8, 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

Keep on looking unto Jesus.

Faith shall soon be changed to sight, and hope to certainty.

Looking to Jesus on earth by faith,

you shall end with seeing Jesus eye to eye in heaven.

Those eyes of yours shall look on

the head that was crowned with thorns,

the hands and feet that were pierced with nails,

and the side that was pierced with a spear.

You shall find that seeing

is the blessed consequence of believing,

and that looking at Jesus by faith

ends with seeing Jesus in glory,

and living with Jesus for evermore.

When you awake up after His likeness, you shall be satisfied.

~J.C. Ryle

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

based on Psalm 108:1-4

M: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

P: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

M: We will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to You among the nations.

**P: For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;
forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;
greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church;
life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).

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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 93

Elder C.J. DeGroot

- 1 The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
- 2 Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
- 3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
- 4 Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
the LORD on high is mighty!
- 5 Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits Your house,
O LORD, forevermore.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Father, we humble ourselves
under Your mighty hand.**

**We confess to You that too often
pride has been our clothing rather than humility.**

**We confess that we have taken our concerns
upon ourselves rather than entrusting them to You.**

**We have not been spiritually vigilant
but instead have been led astray
by the enemy's distractions and lies.**

**Forgive us, restore us, confirm us,
strengthen us, and establish us,
that we might stand firm in Your grace.**

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

Ephesians 1:7

In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace...

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.*

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.*

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

All Is Well

**The sun beams on behind the clouds,
and in the dark still grace abounds.**

**All is well because of God's great love.
The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**He feels our weakness, knows our need,
and for our good He intercedes.**

**All is well because of God's great love.
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,
the Lord of comfort draws us near,
and all is well because of God's great love**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**His coming soon will fill the sky,
and all that's wrong will be made right.
With newborn eyes we will behold
the glory of the risen Lord.**

**All will be well because of God's great love.
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

Words and music by Steve Cook, Vikki Cook (2012).
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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 21:1-14

¹ After this Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and He revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No."

⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

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

"Breakfast on the Beach"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 16:1-3, 6-9

**Preserve me, O my God;
I put my trust in You.
LORD, I confess, You are my Lord;
no good have I but You.
The godly ones on earth,
those holy in Your sight,
the noble and majestic ones,
fill me with great delight.**

**The lines that fell to me
enclose a pleasant site.
The heritage that I received
to me is a delight.
I bless the LORD Who guides
with counsel that is right.
My heart within me He directs
to teach me in the night.**

**I always keep the LORD
before me, Him to see.
Because He is at my right hand
I never moved shall be.
Thus gladness fills my soul;
my joy must be expressed
with my whole being, for my flesh
securely finds its rest.**

Words based on *Book of Psalms* (1871)
and Psalm 16A from *The Book of Psalms for Singing* (1973) alt (1994).
Music by George William Martin (1862).
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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 the Westminster Standards

**P: I believe there is but one true and living God;
that there are three persons in the Godhead:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
and that these three are one God,
the same in substance, equal in power and glory;**

**I believe God has foreordained
whatever comes to pass;
that God made all things of nothing,
by the word of His power,
in the space of six days, and all very good;
and that God preserves and governs
all His creatures and all their actions.**

**I believe our first parents,
though created in knowledge, righteousness,
and holiness,
sinned against God, by eating the forbidden fruit;
and that their fall brought mankind
into an estate of sin and misery;**

**I believe God determined,
out of His mere good pleasure,
to deliver His elect out of the estate of sin and misery,
and to bring them into an estate of salvation
by a Redeemer;**

**I believe the only Redeemer of God's elect
is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I believe Christ as our Redeemer
underwent the miseries of this life,
the wrath of God,
the cursed death of the cross,
and burial;**

**He rose again from the dead on the third day,
ascended up into heaven,
sits at the right hand of God the Father,
and is coming to judge the world at the last day.**

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

I Delight (Isaiah 61:10)

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.
I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns
his head like a priest,
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God.**

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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