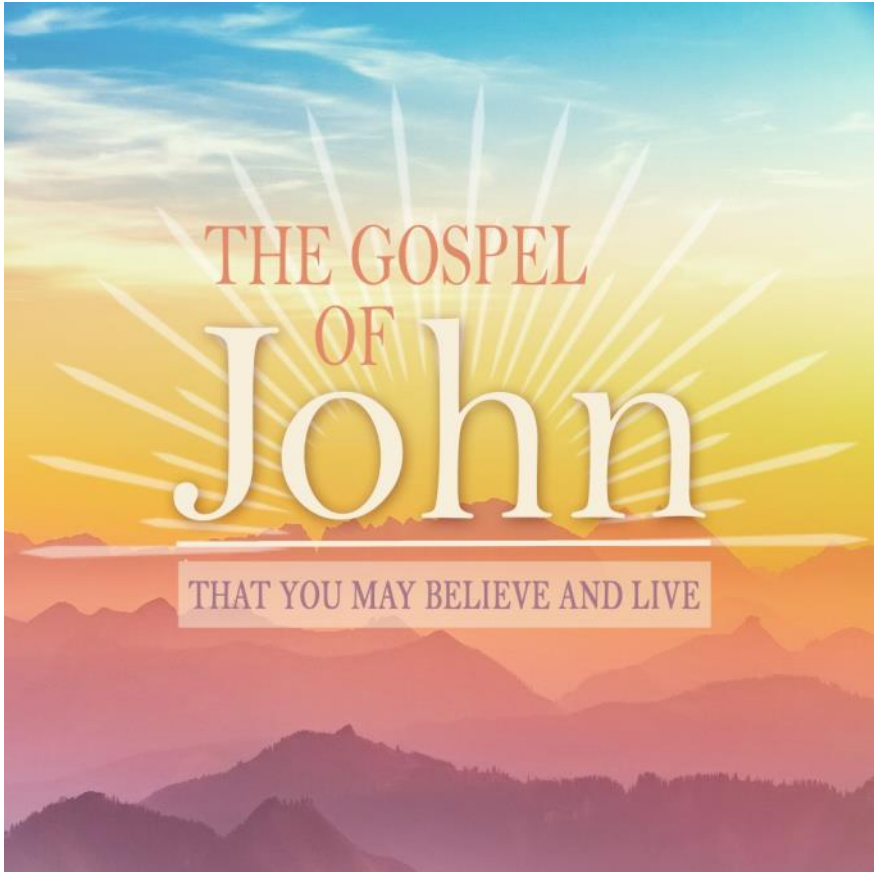




Ascension PCA

September 15, 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

*Jesus has a **special, personal, distinguishing love** for each of His children; just as if He loved no other, but had His whole heart to give to us alone.*

His is a detailed and watchful care, bending over each of His children, day and night, as if He had no other to care for.

How sweet to think that each of us is the special object of such personal affection, the particular object of such unwearied vigilance!

What manner of love is this!

We are sure that we shall be fully cared for, and not one need or sorrow will be overlooked.

We know that "all things shall work together for our good," and that the end of everything which befalls us here shall be light and glory forever!

~ Andrew Bonar

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

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever.

M: Give thanks to the God of gods,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever.

M: Give thanks to the LORD of lords,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: to Him who alone does great wonders,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: to Him who by understanding made the heavens,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: to Him who spread out the earth above the waters,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: to Him who made the great lights,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: the sun to rule over the day,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: the moon and stars to rule over the night,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: It is He who remembered us in our low estate,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: and rescued us from our foes,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever;

M: He who gives food to all flesh,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever.

M: Give thanks to the God of heaven,

P: for His steadfast love endures forever.

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Words by William Kethe (1561). Music by Louis Bourgeois (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
and Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation
and You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of
fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call.
I repent of my prideful disposition;
where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
© 2014 Scot Family Reunion Songs (Admin. by Scot Family Reunion, LLC)

Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord, to us ...
we're thirsty.
Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on the perfect path, O Lord,
and may we ...
... sin no more — this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

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 94

Elder Philip Suh

- 1 O LORD, God of vengeance,
O God of vengeance, shine forth!
- 2 Rise up, O judge of the earth;
repay to the proud what they deserve!
- 3 O LORD, how long shall the wicked,
how long shall the wicked exult?
- 4 They pour out their arrogant words;
all the evildoers boast.
- 5 They crush your people, O LORD,
and afflict Your heritage.
- 6 They kill the widow and the sojourner,
and murder the fatherless;
- 7 and they say, "The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob does not perceive."
- 8 Understand, O dullest of the people!
Fools, when will you be wise?
- 9 He who planted the ear, does He not hear?
He who formed the eye, does He not see?
- 10 He who disciplines the nations, does He not rebuke?
He who teaches man knowledge —
- 11 the LORD — knows the thoughts of man,
that they are but a breath.
- 12 Blessed is the man whom You discipline, O LORD,
and whom You teach out of Your law,
to give him rest from days of trouble,
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14 For the LORD will not forsake His people;
He will not abandon His heritage;
for justice will return to the righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.
- 16 Who rises up for me against the wicked?
Who stands up for me against evildoers?
- 17 If the LORD had not been my help,
my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.
- 18 When I thought, "My foot slips,"
Your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.
- 19 When the cares of my heart are many,
Your consolations cheer my soul.
- 20 Can wicked rulers be allied with You,
those who frame injustice by statute?
- 21 They band together against the life of the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.

- 22 But the LORD has become my stronghold,
and my God the rock of my refuge.
23 He will bring back on them their iniquity
and wipe them out for their wickedness;
the LORD our God will wipe them out.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

based on Psalm 130:1-6

**P: Out of the depths we cry to You, O LORD!
O LORD, hear our voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of our pleas for mercy!
If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O LORD, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.
We wait for the LORD, our souls wait,
and in His word we hope;
our souls wait for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

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 Revelation 1:5-6

L: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
by His blood,
He has made us to be a kingdom and priests
to serve His God and Father.

P: To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Come By the Blood

**You are the perfect and righteous God
Whose presence bears no sin;
You bid me come to Your holy place;
How can I enter in,
when Your presence bears no sin?**

Through Him who poured out His life for me,
the atoning Lamb of God,
Through Him and His work alone,
I boldly come.

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

You are the high and exalted King,
the One the angels fear;
So far above me in every way,
Lord, how can I draw near
to the One the angels fear?

Through Him who laid down His life for me,
and ascended to Your side,
Through Him, through Jesus alone
I boldly come.

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).
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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

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
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Publishing,
Messenger Hymns

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Craig, Rich and Cassandra Rios

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God
and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God,
humbling yourself,
offering no morality or righteousness of your own,
but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?

Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin,
as the Prophet for all your truth,
and as the King of all your life,
resting on Him and His righteousness alone
for your salvation?

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling
by reliance on the Holy Spirit
according to the Word of God?

Do you promise to support this communion
with your prayers and offerings,
to strive for its purity and peace,
and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome this brother
and these sisters as a members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities
to build them up and to seek to practice with them
true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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

Hebrews 10:19-24

M: Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God ...

**P: ... let us draw near with a true heart
in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope
without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful.**

**And let us consider how to stir up one another
to love and good works.**

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.*

MEDITATION

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

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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
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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