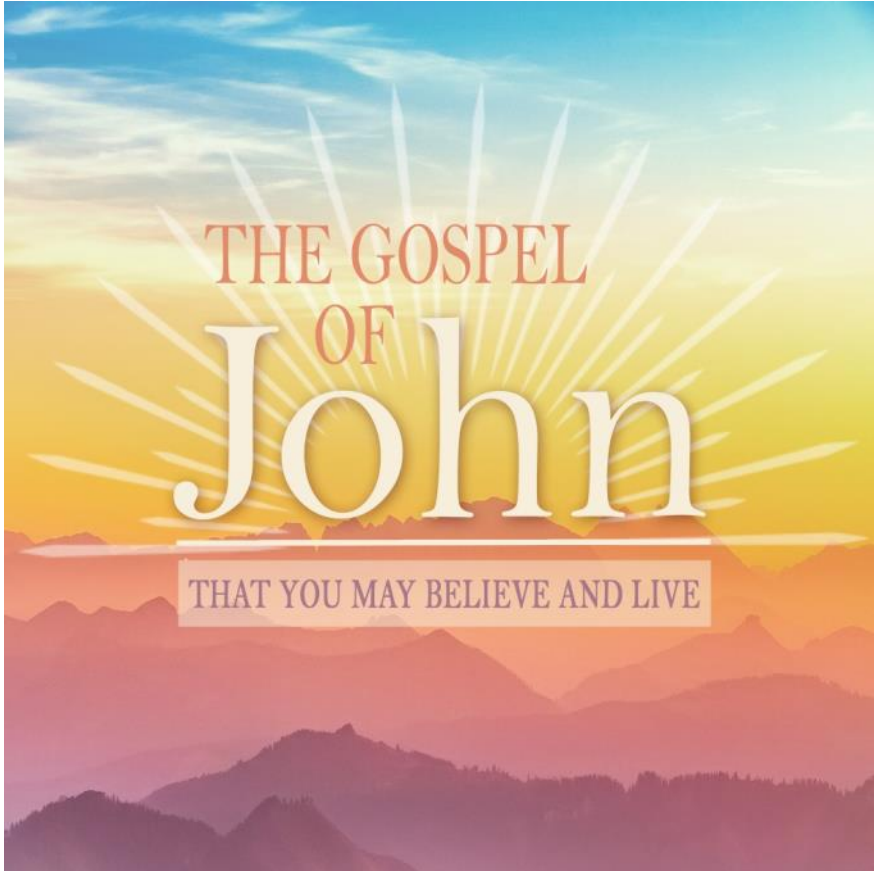




Ascension PCA

September 22, 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

Believe in Christ, and the treasures of heaven are swept into your bosom. Believe in Christ, and a present salvation is yours. Believe in Christ, and the hope of glory dawns upon your soul. Believe in Christ, and you are linked with the bliss of eternity. You have nothing to do, only to BELIEVE.

Away with conditions — away with reasonings — away with questionings — and immediately, simply, only BELIEVE that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and you are SAVED!

It is when faith in Christ is simple that it is strong; when its hand is empty that it is full; when it comes in its deepest poverty that it is rich; and when it is the most weak in created dependencies that it is the strongest in God.

See, then, that you bear this fruit of righteousness, and so evidence your new creation. Have faith in God — in His word of promise, in His infinite power, in His immutable faithfulness.

~ Octavius Winslow

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

Zephaniah 3:14-17

M: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
He has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty One who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.

SONGS OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

**O worship the King, all glorious above,
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love!
While angels delight to worship above.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;
'Till Thy inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.
More and more Thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

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

Psalms 95

Elder Brian Walsh

- 1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- 2 Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
4 In His hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are His also.
5 The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hands formed the dry land.
6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
7 For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you hear His voice,
8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your fathers put Me to the test
and put Me to the proof, though they had seen My work.
10 For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known My ways."
11 Therefore I swore in My wrath,
"They shall not enter My rest."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

from "The Broken Heart" in the Valley of Vision

**P: O LORD, no day of my life has passed
that has not proved me guilty in Your sight.**

**Blessed Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven,
Your merits soar above them.**

**I appeal from the throne of perfect justice
to Your throne of boundless grace.**

**I am guilty, but pardoned,
lost, but saved,
wandering, but found,
sinning, but cleansed.**

**Give me perpetual broken-heartedness,
keep me always clinging to the cross,
flood me every moment with descending grace. 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

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 your sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

**Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

**There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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 21:18-25

¹⁸ "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ (This He said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, "Follow Me."

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against Him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray You?"

²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" ²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brother that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

based on Psalm 111:1

Let us give thanks to the LORD with all our being.
In the company of the upright, let us honor God
for the blessings and goodness we have received.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that Thou art —
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all ...
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)
Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)
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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain.
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,
cleanse your heart and your soul
in the fountain that flowed
for you and for me and for all.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**On the hillside you will be delivered,
at the foot of the cross justified.
And your spirit restored
by the river that poured
from our blessed Savior's side.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
to the crimson perpetual tide;
Kneel down on the shore,
be thirsty no more.
Go under and be purified.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,
on that beautiful, scandalous night
you and me
were atoned by His blood
and forever washed white
on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... on that beautiful, scandalous night ...
... on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

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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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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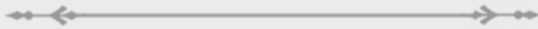
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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