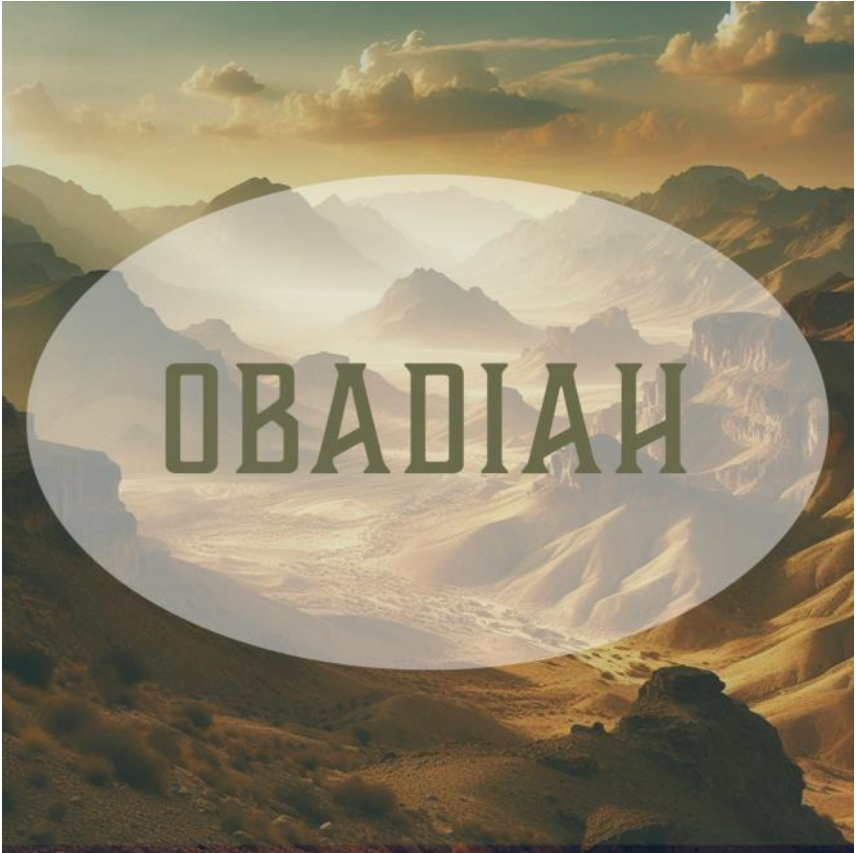




Ascension PCA

October 13, 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

This is the day that You have made, Lord.

Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!

Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as Your people:

To come to You in these moments,

to confess our sins,

to receive forgiveness and give it,

to pray and sing and listen,

to renew our fainting spirits,

to rest in all Your promises.

Open our eyes to see You, Lord.

Open our ears to hear Your Word.

Visit us through Your Holy Spirit,

and help us to worship You. Amen.

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

Revelation 21:1-4

M: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth has passed away,
and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them, and they will be His people,
and God Himself will be with them as their God.
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."

SONGS OF PRAISE

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor for help on man depend;
he shall die, to dust returning,
and his purposes shall end.**

**Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
he is blessed whose hope of blessing
on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
righteousness He will maintain.**

**Food He daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning prisoner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
and the stranger He befriends,
helps the fatherless and widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.**

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
through all ages He is King;
unto Him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.**

Words from Psalm 146, *The Trinity Psalter* (1912); alt.
Music: Gregorian chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend
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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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Elder Philip Suh

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love Him” —

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might

understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God,
we humble ourselves in Your presence,
confessing our unworthiness and sinfulness
in your sight.**

**We have sinned both by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not been patient, kind, and humble.

We have been envious, proud, and self-seeking.

**We have not loved as Christ loved us,
nor sacrificed for others as Christ sacrificed for us.**

**Have mercy upon us, O Merciful Father;
and in compassion for us, Your sinful children,
blot out our transgressions.**

**Create a clean heart in us, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ
to all who truly repent and turn to Him:

*"Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest... he that comes to Me, I will not cast out!"*

Now, may that grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

How Deep

**You were broken that I might be healed.
You were cast off that I might draw near.
You were thirsty that I might come drink.
Cried out in anguish that I might sing:**

***How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise
to You.***

**You knew darkness that I might know light.
Wept great tears that mine might be dried.
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed.
Crushed by Your Father to call me Your own.**

***How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise...***

***How deep is Your love.
How high and how wide is Your mercy.
How deep is Your grace.
Our hearts overflow with praise
to You.***

Based on The Valley of Vision prayer "Love Lustres at Calvary"
Words and music by Stephen Altrogge.
© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

**And can it be that I should gain
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me?
*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace.
Humbled Himself, so great His love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

Obadiah 10-21

- ¹⁰ Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off forever.
- ¹¹ On the day that you stood aloof,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

- 12 But do not gloat over the day of your brother
in the day of his misfortune;
do not rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their ruin;
do not boast
in the day of distress.
- 13 Do not enter the gate of my people
in the day of their calamity;
do not gloat over his disaster
in the day of his calamity;
do not loot his wealth
in the day of his calamity.
- 14 Do not stand at the crossroads
to cut off his fugitives;
do not hand over his survivors
in the day of distress.
- 15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations.
As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.
- 16 For as you have drunk on My holy mountain,
so all the nations shall drink continually;
they shall drink and swallow,
and shall be as though they had never been.
- 17 But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape,
and it shall be holy,
and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions.
- 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
and the house of Joseph a flame,
and the house of Esau stubble;
they shall burn them and consume them,
and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau,
for the LORD has spoken.
- 19 Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau,
and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land
of the Philistines;
they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria,
and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.
- 20 The exiles of this host of the people of Israel
shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath,
and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
shall possess the cities of the Negeb.
- 21 Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion
to rule Mount Esau,
and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

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

"Comfort and Hope"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

*Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving
what You have first given us —
ourselves, our time, and our possessions —
signs of Your gracious love.*

*Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us —
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

**On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land
where my possessions lie.**

**O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
are felt and feared no more.**

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

When I shall reach that happy place
I'll be forever blest
for I shall see my Father's face
and in His bosom rest.

*I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.*

Words by Samuel Stennet (1787). Music by Christopher Miner (1997).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1997 Getty Music Hymns and Songs

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

based on The Belgic Confession, Art. 27

M: What do you believe about the church of Christ?

**P: We believe and confess one single catholic
or universal church —
a holy congregation and gathering
of true Christian believers.**

M: What binds them all together?

**P: They await their entire salvation in Jesus Christ,
having been washed by His blood,
and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

M: When did this church begin?

**P: This church has existed from the beginning of the world
and will last until the end,
as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King
who cannot be without subjects.**

M: How is this church preserved?

**P: This holy church is preserved by God
against the rage of the whole world,
even though for a time it may appear very small
in the eyes of humankind —
as though it were snuffed out.**

M: How big is this church?

**P: This holy church is not confined, bound, or limited
to a certain place or certain persons.
But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world,
though still joined and united in heart and will,
in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.**

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

The Precious Blood

**Before the cross I kneel and see
the measure of my sin,
how You became a curse for me,
though You were innocent.
The magnitude of Your great love
was shown in full degree,
when righteous blood, the crimson spill,
rained down from Calvary.**

*Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.*

*It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.*

**And who am I that I should know
this treasure of such worth?
My Savior's pure atoning blood,
shed for the wrath I'd earned.
For sin has stained my every deed,
my every word and thought.
What wondrous love that makes me one
Your priceless blood has bought.**

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.***

***Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.***

***It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

***A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea ...***

***A crown of thorns,
pierced hands and feet,
a body bruised,
and Mercy's plea ...***

***Oh, the precious blood
that flowed from Mercy's side
washed away my sin
when Christ my Savior died.***

***Oh, the precious blood
of Christ the crucified.***

***It speaks for me before Your throne
where I stand justified.***

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "The Precious Blood".
Music and words by Peter Gagnon (2006).
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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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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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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