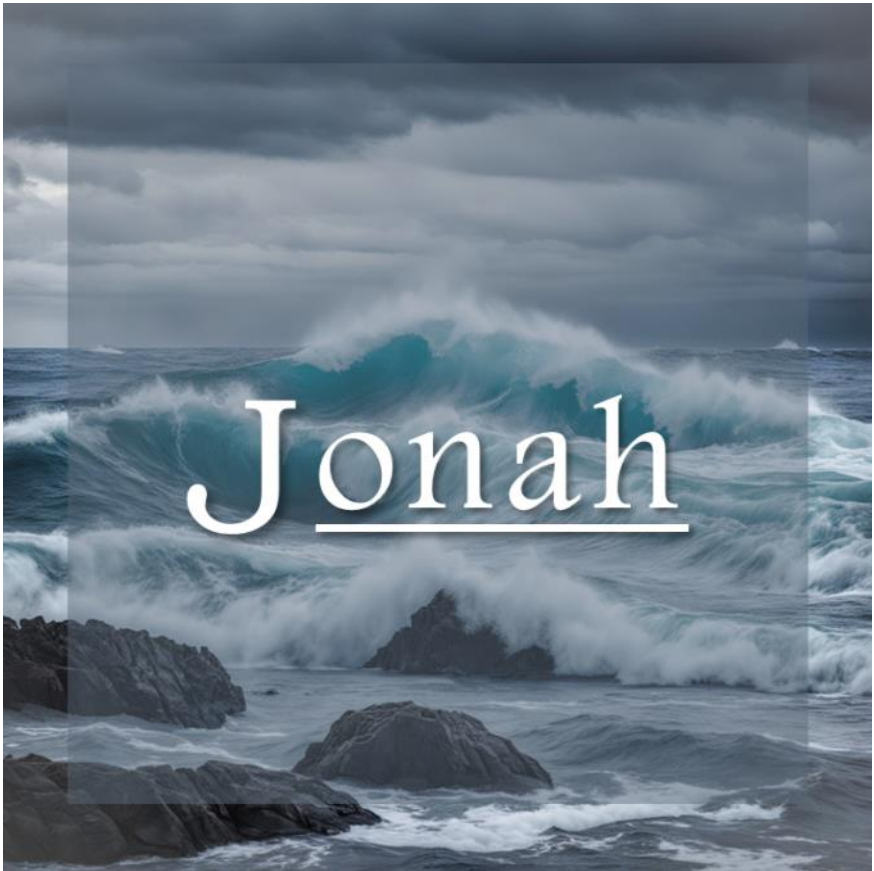




Ascension PCA

October 20, 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

*Your house is mine, but I am unworthy to meet You here,
and am unfit for spiritual service.*

*When I enter this place I come before You as a sinner,
condemned by conscience and Your Word,
for I am still in the body and in the wilderness,
ignorant, weak, in danger, and in need of Your aid.*

*But encouraged by Your all sufficient grace,
let me come to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You,
knowing that here You come to me and give me peace.*

*My soul is drawn out to You in longing desires
for Your presence in the sanctuary, at the table,
where all are entertained on a feast of good things.*

~ from *The Valley of Vision*

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

Philippians 4:4,20

M: Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say, Rejoice.

P: To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Rejoice!

**Great is the Lord, for His mighty name,
and His righteousness never fail.
Earth, wind, and sea show His glorious works
and the universe declares His majesty.**

**Great is His Word and His faithfulness
for His truth and wisdom is sure.
Precious His law, making pathways clear,
and His presence draws His wandering people near.**

Come lift your voice.

Let us rejoice.

Sing of His mercy and love!

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.*

**Great is His love, and His mercy good,
by His grace our hearts are made new.
He shed His blood that atoned for sin,
giving life through death and resurrection.**

Come lift your voice.

Let us rejoice.

Sing of His mercy and love!

***Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.***

**We bow before You.
Your throne we come to.
We humbly seek you, so
come and lift up your voice.
Sing of His mercy and love!**

***Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.***

Words by Jonathan, Janelle, and Elanor Eck (2024).
Music by Jonathan Eck (2024).
© 2024 Jonathan Eck

Lord, for Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.
You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,
Grant Cunningham (1998)
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

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 3:1-23

Elder Theo Vander Wel

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Father, we are often confused by the sin that remains even though Your Spirit dwells in us.

**We confess that we do not love others well,
and we cannot come close to loving
as we have been loved by You in Jesus.**

**Instead we are so often a selfish people
who use others for our benefit
and cannot love unconditionally.**

**We are quick to anger, envy, covetousness,
and sinful thoughts —
even concerning the people we love the most.**

**We make very little progress in holiness,
and each new day seems to reveal more sin in us
than we saw before.**

Forgive us, Lord, and change us.

**Give us grace to admit what is true about us,
and grace to see what is true about Christ.**

**We thank You, Holy Father,
for giving Your precious Son to die for our sin,
and for crediting us with all of His glorious perfections,
even as we continue to sin daily.**

**Make us like Him,
for our good and for the glory of Your Name.**

In Jesus' name. 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

Isaiah 54:8, 43:25, 44:22

“With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

“I, I am He

who blots out your transgressions for My own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.

Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

Believe this good news and live in peace.

In Christ Jesus, you are forgiven. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this my plea:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness:

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).

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

Jonah 1:1-16

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before Me." ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

⁷ And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹ And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."

¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous

against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You." ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

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

"The Chase Begins"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

O Come, All You Unfaithful

**O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.**

**O come, barren and waiting ones,
Weary of praying. Come,
See what your God has done.**

***Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

**O come, bitter and broken.
Come, with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of His perfect love.**

**O come, guilty and hiding ones,
There is no need to run.
See what your God has done.**

***Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.***

***He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.***

***His promise is peace
for those who believe.***

***He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.***

***His promise is peace
for those who believe.***

**So come, though you have nothing.
Come, He is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.**

**Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.**

**Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.**

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

The Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,
crowning Your bloodstained brow.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
we stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
we stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love!**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.
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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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Scripture text from

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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
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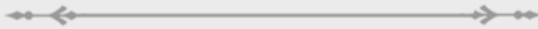
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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