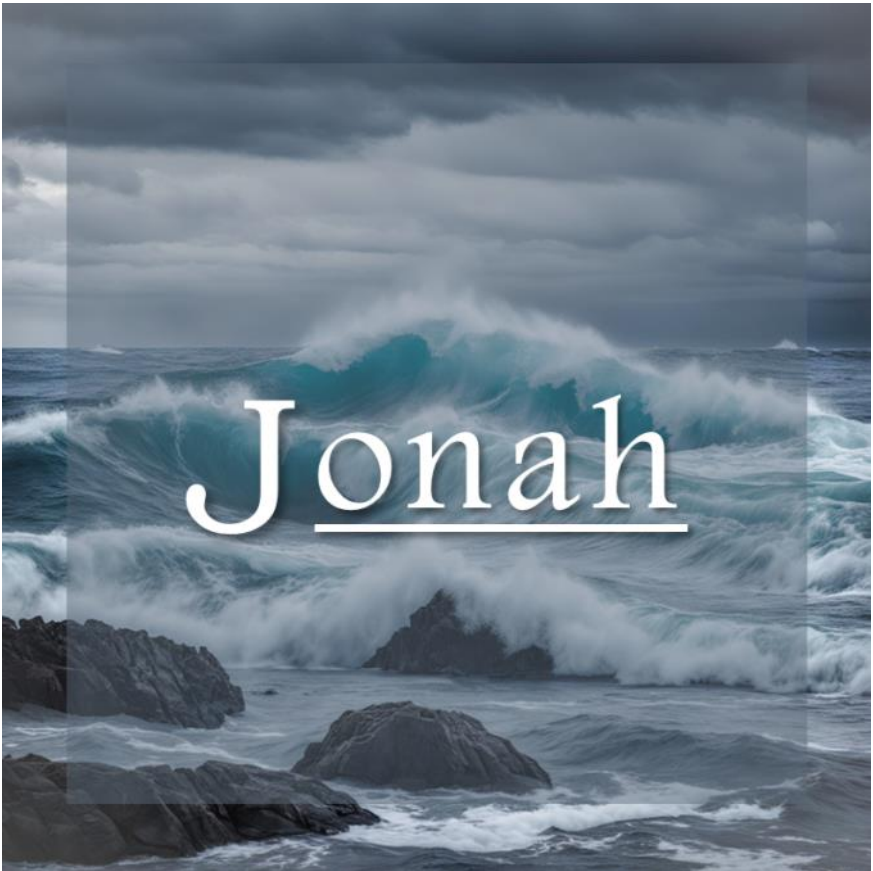




Ascension PCA

October 27, 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

*Oh, you are not dealing with trifles
when you are dealing with the love of God to you.
It is not a spare corner of the heart of God that He gives to you,
as you may give a little love to the criminals in the jails,
but the great, inconceivably vast heart of God
belongs as much to every Christian
as if there were not another being in the world
for God to love!
Even as Jehovah loves His Only-begotten,
so does He love each one of His children.*

~ Charles Spurgeon

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

(in unison)

P: We praise You, we worship You, we adore You.

**You hold the heavens in Your hand;
all stars rejoice in Your glory.**

**You come in the sunrise and the song of morn
and bless the splendor of the noonday.**

We praise You, we worship You, we adore You.

**The stars in their courses magnify You;
day and night tell of Your glory.**

**Your peace blows over the earth,
and the breath of Your mouth fills all space.**

We praise You, we worship You, we adore You.

**Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of Your majesty.**

**You satisfy all things living with Your abundance,
and our hearts bow at Your presence.**

We praise You, we worship You, we adore You.

**Accept us, Your children, eternal Father,
hear our prayers, receive our praise,
glorify Yourself, and build Your church.**

Through Jesus our Savior we pray, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 57:15 & John 4:23

**M: For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite."**

**P: But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshippers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 89

**Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders,
angels sing Your faithfulness.**

**For none matches God in heaven,
who's like God in heaven's throng?**

**God is feared among the angels,
He's more awesome than they all.**

**Lord, O God of hosts, who's like You?
Mighty God, You're bound with truth.**

**You rule o'er the sea's proud surging;
when its waves rise, bid them still.
You rule nations, they do Your bidding;
Your strong arm disperses foes.**

**Yours the heavens, earth's bounds also;
You have founded all the world.
North and south You have created;
all creation sings Your praise.**

**You've an arm that's great in power;
Your strong hand is all supreme.
Your rule's based on right and justice,
cov'nant love and truth are Yours.**

**They are happy who acclaim You;
in Your favor, Lord, they walk.
In Your Name rejoicing ever;
in Your righteousness raised high.**

Words from The Trinity Psalter. Music by Asahel Nettleton (1825).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Step by Step

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek You in the morning
and I will learn to walk in Your ways,
and step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.**

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

Words and music by David (Beaker) Strasser (1992).
© 1992 Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing, Universal Music (Brentwood Benson Publishing)

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.**

**For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.**

**You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth, His name,
from age to age the same,
and He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.**

**The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him who with us sideth.**

**Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.**

Words and music by Martin Luther (1529);
translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1853)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 4:1-21

Elder C.J. DeGroot

¹ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

⁶ I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. ⁷ For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸ Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹ What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Most holy and merciful Father,
We acknowledge and confess before You
our sinful nature
prone to evil and slothful in good,
and all our shortcomings and offenses.
You alone know how often we have sinned,
in wandering from Your ways,
in wasting Your gifts,
and in forgetting Your love.
O Lord, have mercy upon us!
Teach us to hate our errors.
Cleanse us from our secret faults
and forgive our sins for the sake of Your dear Son.
Help us, we beseech You,
to live in Your light and walk in Your ways,
according to the commandments of 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

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
and He is a propitiation for our sins and not only for ours,
but also for the sins of the whole world.

Believe these words and live in peace. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

It is my story, my Father's plan.

The Son has rescued me.

Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.

My highest joy and my deepest need.

Now and forever, He is my light.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.**

**For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.**

For He has brought me from death to life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.**

**For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.**

For He has promised I too will rise.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.**

**We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.**

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.**

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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 1:17 – 2:1-10

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,
² saying,

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,
and He answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and You heard my voice.

³ For You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all Your waves and Your billows
passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away
from Your sight;
yet I shall again look
upon your holy temple.'

⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet You brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.

⁷ When my life was fainting away,
I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to You,
into Your holy temple.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to You;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!"

GIVING TO THE LORD

Proverbs 11:24–25

One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
and hung Him on that judgment tree.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the Holy Judge:
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer.
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness, my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.***

**I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing.**

***I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (2001).
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(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook]))

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

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 56,59

M: What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

**P: I believe that God,
because of Christ's atonement,
will never hold against me any of my sins
nor my sinful nature
which I need to struggle against all my life.
Rather, in His grace God grants me
the righteousness of Christ
to free me forever from judgment.**

M: What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

**P: In Christ I am right with God
and heir to life everlasting.**

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

How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

**How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?”**

**“Why was I made to hear Thy voice,
and enter while there’s room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?”**

**‘Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send Thy victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Thy churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing Thy redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

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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-PCA.ORG

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