



Ascension PCA

November 10, 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

Precious Lord Jesus,
clothe me with the wedding garment of Your righteousness,
and feed me with the rich food of Your body and blood.

Be my covering, my joy, and my all —
so that when I am at Your church, at Your table,
at Your house of prayer below,
or at Your kingdom of glory above,
you the King will come in to see Your guests,
and my soul may cry out.

I will say, in Your own blessed words,
and with a joy unspeakable and full of glory:

*"I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.
For He has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with jewels."*

~ Robert Hawker

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 113:1-6

M: Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

**P: Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

M: The LORD is high above all nations,
and His glory above the heavens!

**P: Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

SONGS OF PRAISE

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

Hear heaven's voices sing.

*Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'erald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'erald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
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Psalm 66

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,
aloft your voices raise;
sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.
Sing forth the honor of His name,
and glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee
and unto Thee shall sing;
and to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.
And to Thy name most glorious,
their songs of praise shall bring.**

**O all ye people, bless our God;
aloud proclaim His praise,
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,
our feet from sliding stays.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871),
and *The Psalter* (1912).

©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

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 6:1-11

Elder Brett Chase

¹ When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸ But you yourselves wrong and defraud — even your own brothers!

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

based on the Ten Commandments

M: O LORD, our God who brought His people out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery
and by Christ delivered us from sin,
You have been faithful to keep all the promises
of Your covenant.

P: But we, O LORD, have been a stubborn people.

We have loved other gods before You and followed them.

We have not worshipped You as Your glory deserves.

We have used Your name in vain

and profaned Your reputation on earth.

We have not trusted You to give us rest.

We have not honored our fathers and mothers.

We have hated our neighbors

and murdered them in our hearts.

We have been adulterers in the lust of our eyes.

**We have stolen honor and wealth and privileges
that are not ours.**

We have lied and falsely accused

for we love gossip more than truth.

**We have coveted blessings You wisely and righteously
gave to others.**

O LORD, have mercy on us for we have not kept Your law.

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

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,

He is faithful and just to forgive our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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,
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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

READING OF THE WORD

Jonah 4:1-11

¹ But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶ Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort.

So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

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

"A Tale of Two Hearts"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Timothy 6:6-7

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,
for we brought nothing into the world,
and we cannot take anything out of the world.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

**O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

Words by George Matheson (1882). Music by Christopher Miner (1997)
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RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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 these these brothers
and 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

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

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.
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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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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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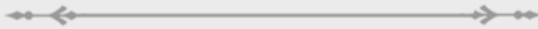
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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