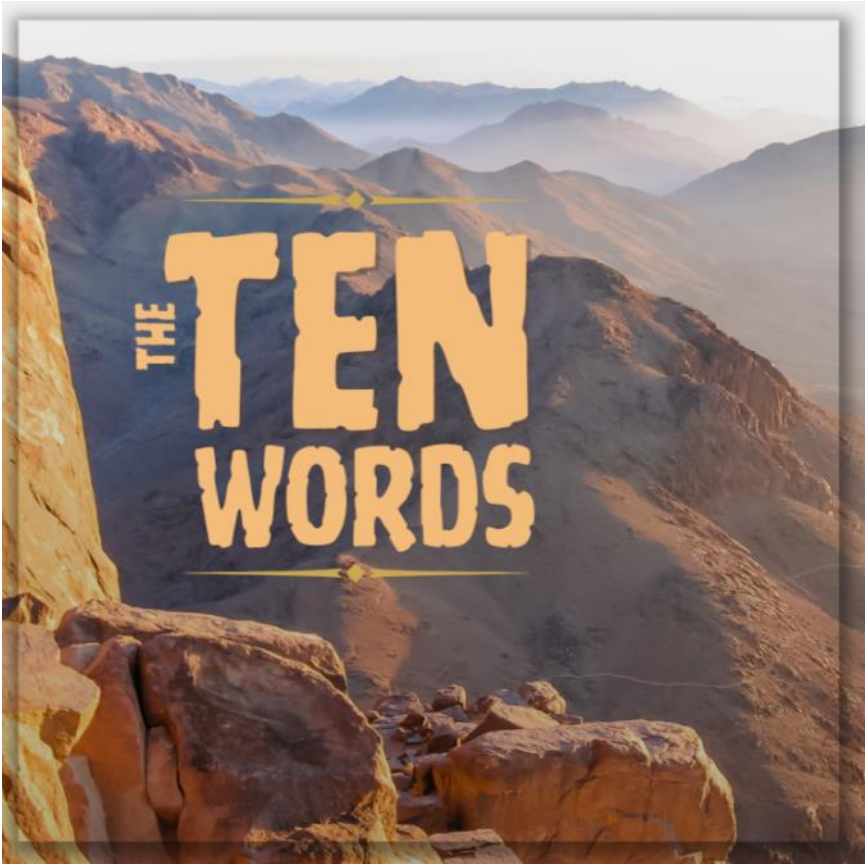




Ascension PCA

January 5, 2025



**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

*Keep me, Lord, on the narrow way of Christ:
the path that leads to life.*

*To walk with You in spirit, in truth, is my deepest desire —
to be wholehearted, single-minded, eyes fixed on Jesus:
Living Word, my Daily Bread.*

For Your commands are my delight.

In Your presence, I am never forsaken.

*The life I long for — life of abundance, promise, blessing —
is found in the keeping of Your Word,
the purity of heart and mind.*

Your promises keep me from stumbling;

Your love saves me from the pull of lesser things.

*May I live humbly, justly, mercifully before You,
filled with new songs to voice the glories of Your grace.*

~ Ryan Whitaker Smith & Dan Wilt

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 84:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:13; Psalm 91:1; Psalm 37:7

**P: How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house,
ever singing Your praise!**

M: Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with loving hand
guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,
spreading His winds to o'er shade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Only You

**You have known my every situation,
and Your goodness sustains me, Lord;
I will bow in humble expectation
of Your presence in the storm.
Yes, there will be trial and tribulation
and You'll grant me breath to persevere.
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,
of the day You'll dry these tears.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,
yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.
All these things too wonderful to speak of
fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

***Only You have set the earth on its foundation,
Only You give orders to the dawn,
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,
Only You deserve our song.***

***Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,
You expose the evils of the night.
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,
Only You are clothed in light.***

**Here I am in the valley of decision,
I know You hear me when I call.
I repent of my prideful disposition;
where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall
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Come, Holy One

**Hasten now, O loving Lord, to us ...
we're thirsty.
Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on the perfect path, O Lord,
and may we ...
... sin no more — this spotless bride, the Church,
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.
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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 7:1-16

¹ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰ To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O Merciful Lord, forgive us our sins.

**Forgive the sins that we know and the sins we don't,
the sins of our youth and the sins of old age,
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,
the sins we have committed to please ourselves,
and the sins we have committed to please others.**

**Forgive them all, O Lord, because of Your great goodness.
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.*

THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Ephesians 1:7

M: In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace...

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Psalm 19:7-11 & Exodus 20:1-17

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor'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

"God's Good & Gracious Words"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

How Firm a Foundation

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid.
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”**

Words from *Rippon’s Selection of Hymns* (1787; alt.; mod.)
Traditional American melody;
J. Funk’s *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music* (1832)
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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

Behold the Lamb

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us — and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.**

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
torn for you — eat and remember:
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.**

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you — drink and remember:
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.**

**So, we share in this Bread of Life,
and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.**

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond — and to remember:
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.**

**As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.**

**As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.**

Words and music Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, 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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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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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour
10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

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