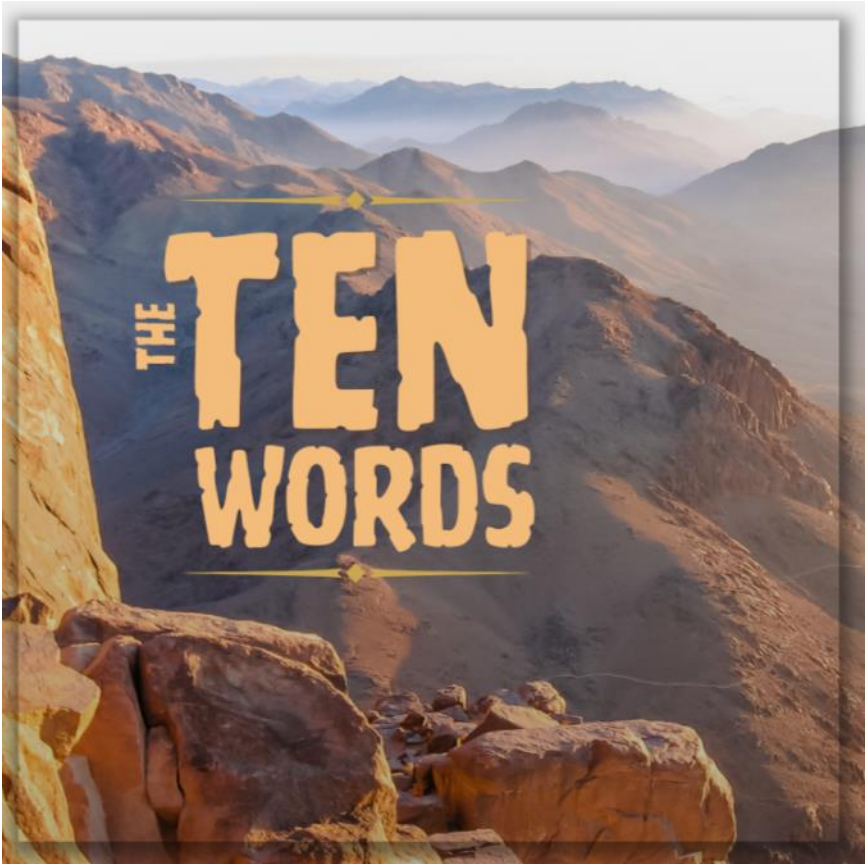




**Ascension** PCA

**January 12, 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**

*We call upon You,*

*Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel.*

*You are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*the God who, through the abundance of Your mercy,  
has shown us favor, that we should know You.*

*You are the One who has made heaven and earth,  
who rules over all.*

*You are the only and the true God,  
above whom there is no other.*

~ Irenaeus of Lyons

# 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

*1 Timothy 2:5-6*

**P: There is one God,  
and there is one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus,  
who gave Himself as a ransom for all.**

**M: Adopted of God, through the mediation of Christ,  
let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace  
and worship the Lord!**

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalms 145:1-7*

**I will Thee praise, my God, O King,  
and I will ever bless Thy Name;  
I will extol Thee everyday  
and evermore Thy praise proclaim.**

**The LORD is great, His praise exceeds;  
His greatness fully search can none;  
Race shall to race extol Thy deeds  
and tell Thy mighty acts each one.**

**Upon Thy glorious majesty  
and wondrous works my mind shall dwell;  
Men shall recount Thy dreadful acts,  
and of Thy greatness I will tell.**

Words from Psalm 145:1-7, *Trinity Psalter* (1994).  
Music by John Hatton (1793).  
© 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications.

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face,  
full arrayed in blood-washed linen,  
how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace.**

**Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,  
bring Thy promises to pass,  
for I know Thy power will keep me  
till I'm home with Thee at last.**

**Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,  
bring Thy promises to pass,  
for I know Thy power will keep me  
till I'm home with Thee at last.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758) & Bob Kauflin (2008).

Music by John Wyeth (1813).

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### *Through the Precious Blood*

**You have ordained every breath we take,  
in pleasure or pain there is no mistake.  
Gladness and grief, both are in Your hands,  
and sufferings brief carry out Your plan.**

**And our fleeting sorrows  
will yield an endless prize,  
when some bright tomorrow  
we'll see You with our eyes.**

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down  
through the precious blood of Christ.***

**Father of lights, Giver of all grace,  
Your mercies crown our lives all our days;  
River of life quench our thirsty souls,  
for no true delight does Your love withhold.**

**And in every season  
we are satisfied,  
for just one reason:  
Christ was crucified.**

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down ...***

***And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down;  
And grace upon grace  
flows down, flows down  
through the precious blood of Christ.***

Words and music by Mark Altrogge  
© 2008 Integrity's Praise! Music, Sovereign Grace Praise

## **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 7:17-24*

*Elder Chris Sledge*

<sup>17</sup> Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. <sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. <sup>19</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. <sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. <sup>21</sup> Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. <sup>24</sup> So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from The Valley of Vision*

**P: O God Most High, Most Glorious,  
we come to You as sinners with cares and sorrows,  
to leave every concern entirely to You,  
every sin calling for Christ's precious blood.**

**Revive deep spirituality in our hearts.**

**Let us live near to the great Shepherd,  
hear His voice, know its tones, follow its calls.**

**Lord, help us, for we are often lukewarm and chill.**

**Unbelief mars our confidence,  
sin makes us forget You.**

**Let the weeds that grow in our souls  
be cut at their roots.**

**Forgive us O Lord.**

**Abide in us through Jesus our Savior. 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

*Titus 3:4-5a*

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of His mercy...

*In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*All Is Well*

**The sun beams on behind the clouds,  
and in the dark still grace abounds.  
All is well because of God's great love.  
The road of disappointment runs  
where unseen mercies wait for us,  
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***

**He feels our weakness, knows our need,  
and for our good He intercedes.  
All is well because of God's great love.  
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,  
the Lord of comfort draws us near,  
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***

**His coming soon will fill the sky,  
and all that's wrong will be made right.  
With newborn eyes we will behold  
the glory of the risen Lord.  
All will be well because of God's great love.  
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father  
in our Savior Jesus Christ.  
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.  
He will never leave our side.***



# 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

*Exodus 20:1-3*

- <sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying,
- <sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before Me."

### 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

*"Allegiance"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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### PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Matthew 6:31-33*

"Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*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.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).  
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## **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 Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:**

**That Christ died for our sins  
according to the Scriptures,  
that He was buried,  
that He was raised on the third day,  
and that He appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
He is our Lord and our God.**

### **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

*Beautiful, Scandalous Night*

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy  
to the crimson perpetual tide;**

**Kneel down on the shore,  
be thirsty no more.**

**Go under and be purified.**

**Follow Christ to the holy mountain.**

**Sinner, sorry and wrecked by fall,  
cleanse your heart and your soul  
in the fountain that flowed  
for you and for me and for all.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,  
on that beautiful, scandalous night  
you and me*

*were atoned by His blood  
and forever washed white  
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**On the hillside you will be delivered,  
at the foot of the cross justified.**

**And your spirit restored  
by the river that poured  
from our blessed Savior's side.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,  
on that beautiful, scandalous night  
you and me*

*were atoned by His blood  
and forever washed white  
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy  
to the crimson perpetual tide;**

**Kneel down on the shore,  
be thirsty no more.**

**Go under and be purified.**

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,  
on that beautiful, scandalous night  
you and me  
were atoned by His blood  
and forever washed white  
on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

*At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree,  
on that beautiful, scandalous night  
you and me  
were atoned by His blood  
and forever washed white  
on that beautiful, scandalous night ...  
... on that beautiful, scandalous night ...  
... on that beautiful, scandalous night.*

Words and music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong  
© 1995 Never Say Never Songs

## 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  
**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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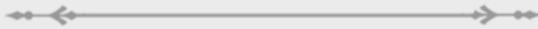
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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