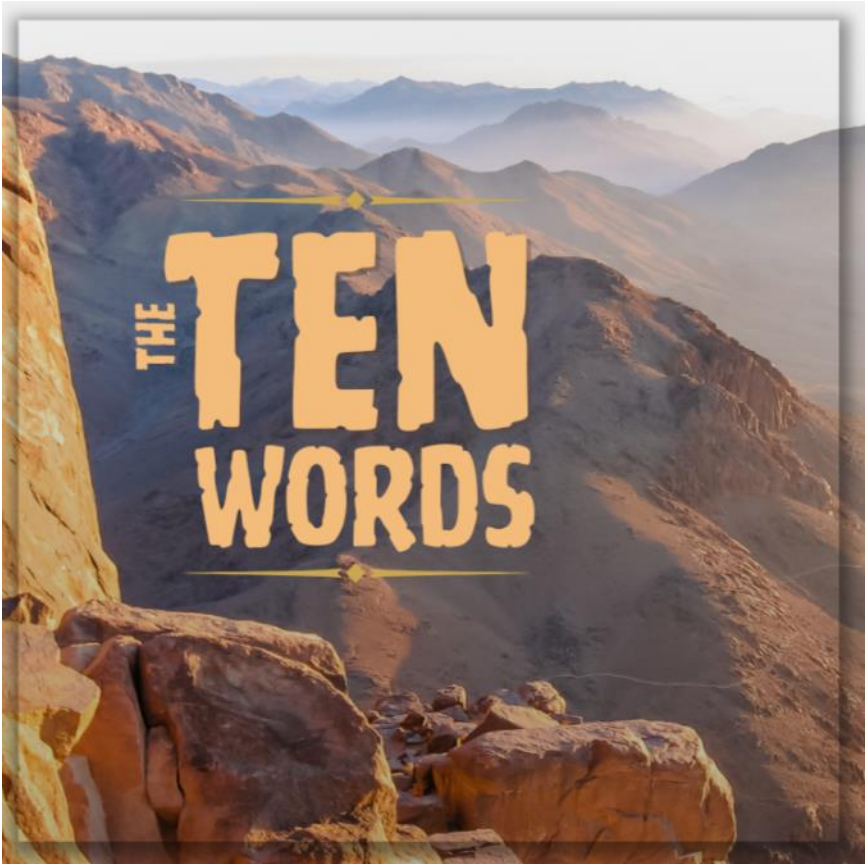




Ascension PCA

February 2, 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

*Teach me to seek Thee,
and reveal Thyself to me, when I seek Thee,
for I cannot seek Thee,
except Thou teach me, nor find Thee,
except Thou reveal Thyself.*

*Let me seek Thee in longing,
let me long for Thee in seeking;
let me find Thee in love,
and love Thee in finding.*

~ Anselm

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

Exodus 15:1-2,11

M: Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD,
saying,

**P: I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.
Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 19

**The spacious heav'ns declare
the glory of our God.
The firmament displays
His handiwork abroad;
Day unto day doth utter speech,
and night to night doth knowledge teach.**

**In heav'n He set a tent,
a dwelling for the sun,
which as a mighty man
delights his course to run.
He, bridegroom-like in his array,
comes from his chamber, bringing day.**

**Jehovah's perfect law
restores the soul again;
His testimony sure
gives wisdom unto men.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
and fill the heart with great delight.**

**Let all the words I speak
and all the thoughts within
come up before Thy sight
and Thine approval win.
O Thou Jehovah, unto me
my Rock and my Redeemer be.**

Words based on the *Book of Psalms* (1871) and *The Psalter* (1912).
Music by Music by John Darwall (1770).
Text: © 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy
and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend
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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 9:1-27

Elder Philip Suh

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

⁸ Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

¹⁵ But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Heavenly Father, we have sinned.

**Both consciously and unconsciously,
we have thought, spoken, and done
what we should not have.**

**And we have not thought, spoken, and done
what You have called us to do and be as Your people.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Grant us the grace to never be content with ourselves,
to always grieve and turn from our sin,
to never think that we have "arrived."**

**Give us the strength by Your Spirit
to kill our pride and envy,
to command our tongues to speak words of life,
and to trample down our selfishness.**

**May we live for You and not for ourselves,
may we be transformed into Your likeness,
be set apart for Your service,
and live entirely for Your glory.**

In the name of Jesus we plead, 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 PARDON

Ephesians 1:7-8 & Isaiah 12:1-2

L: In Christ we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace
that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

**P: We will praise you, O LORD!
Although You were angry with us,
Your anger has turned away
and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust and not be afraid.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,
how my lost estate to save;
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,
and His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.*

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,
with His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
paid the debt
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

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

Exodus 20:1-11

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."

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

"Rest"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Keep the Feast

**Joyfully we join You at Your table,
pleading not our righteousness,
By Your wealth of mercy we are able
now to feast in confidence.**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Who is fit to feast with such a Savior?
Who His sandals could untie?
Who are we that He would show us favor,
granting us this gift of life?**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Happy sign of friendship and reunion
with the blessed Three in One.
Foretaste of that glorious communion,
vision of the world to come.**

***Take this bread and eat.
Take this cup and drink.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.
Remember how He loved us.
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

Words and music by Skye Peterson and Ben Shive (2024).
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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.

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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death,
and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words by William R. Featherstone (1864).
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876)
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
Ascension Presbyterian Church
and that any automatic payments are being sent
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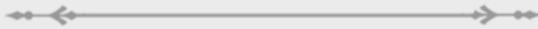
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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