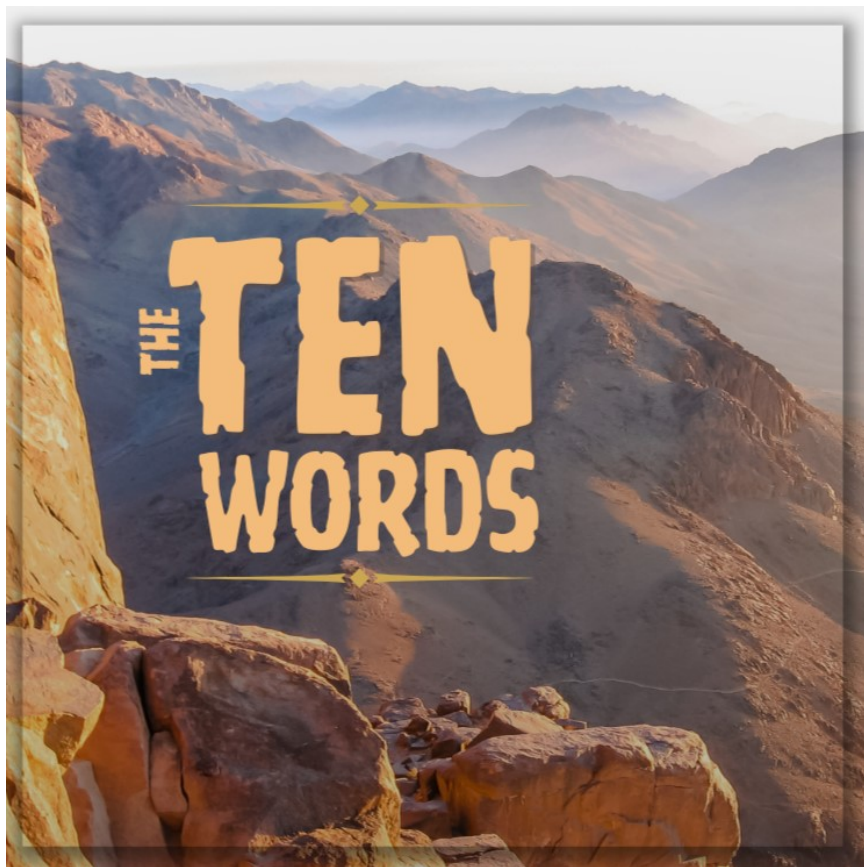




Ascension PCA

April 6, 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

What is now will not go on forever.

This world is marching toward an end.

We can embrace the hope of justice.

Final judgment is coming.

Grace requires evil to die forever.

Those far from You will perish.

Those unfaithful to You, Lord, will come to an end.

I have been unfaithful to You.

I have chosen to be far from You.

I have broken each of Your laws.

But I am not afraid of what You will put to an end.

Grace has drawn me near to You.

Grace has paid for my unfaithfulness.

Grace has made me clean in Your eyes.

Grace put my stripes on Jesus,

so I would not face them when You put what-is-now to an end.

~ Paul Tripp

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

followed by The Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24, 28-29

- M:** For you have not come to what may be touched,
a blazing fire and darkness and gloom
and tempest and the sound of a trumpet
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that no further messages be spoken to them...
But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn
who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks
a better word than the blood of Abel.
- P:** **Therefore let us be grateful for receiving
a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,
with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Rejoice!

**Great is the Lord, for His mighty name,
and His righteousness never fail.
Earth, wind, and sea show His glorious works
and the universe declares His majesty.**

**Great is His Word and His faithfulness
for His truth and wisdom is sure.
Precious His law, making pathways clear,
and His presence draws His wandering people near.**

***Come lift your voice.
Let us rejoice.
Sing of His mercy and love!***

***Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.***

**Great is His love, and His mercy good,
by His grace our hearts are made new.
He shed His blood that atoned for sin,
giving life through death and resurrection.**

***Come lift your voice.
Let us rejoice.
Sing of His mercy and love!***

***Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.***

**We bow before You.
Your throne we come to.
We humbly seek you.
So come and lift up your voice.
Sing of His mercy and love!**

***Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice
for the Lord is close at hand.
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice,
again I say rejoice.***

O Great God

**O great God of highest heav'n,
occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,
had no ears to hear Your voice,
did not know Your love within,
had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life,
opened up Your Word to me
through the gospel of Your Son,
gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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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 14:1–25

Elder Chris Sledge

¹ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

⁶ Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷ If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸ And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹ but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. ¹² So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to Me, says the Lord.” ²² Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for

believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God,
You made us in Your image,
with a mind to know You,
a heart to love You,
and a will to serve You.
But in our brokenness and sinfulness,
our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconsistent,
and our obedience incomplete.
In Your tender love, forgive us,
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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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 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.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Psalm 78

My people give ear, attend to My Word,

in parables new, deep truths shall be heard;

the wonderful story our fathers made known

to children succeeding by us must be shown.

Let children thus learn, from history's light

to hope in our God and walk in His sight,

the God of the cov'nant to fear and obey,

and not like old Israel to turn from His way.

God's wonderful works to us He has shown,

His marvelous deeds His people have known;

He gave us His Son in His love for us all,

His honor and glory, our priv'lege, our call.

Words from *The Psalter* (1912). Music by William Croft (1706).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin." ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

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

"Fear"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

[illegible]

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

Psalm 116:12

What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

SONG OF RESPONSE

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**Man of Sorrows! What a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim:**

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned He stood,
sealed my pardon with His blood:**

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
spotless Lamb of God was He;
"Full atonement!" Can it be?**

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**Lifted up was He to die,
"It is finished!" was His cry:
now in heav'n exalted high:**

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

**When He comes, our glorious King,
all His ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing:**

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ember Jessee

Do you acknowledge Ember's need
of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you acknowledge that although she is
conceived and born in sin,
and therefore is subject to condemnation,
she, as a child of believers,
being born within the covenant community,
is set apart in Christ,
and as a member of His visible church,
ought to be baptized?

Do you realize that this sacrament
does not give salvation to her,
but she must, by God's grace,
come to faith, repentance, and obedience
when she reaches the age of discretion?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf
and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ
for her salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents,
are covenanting with God to raise Ember
in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?

And do you now acknowledge that she belongs to God,
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,
to set before her a godly example,
to pray with and for her,
to teach her the doctrines of the gospel
and of our holy religion,
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,
to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand)

M: Do you as a congregation promise to undertake
the responsibility of encouraging, praying for, and as
God gives you opportunity, assisting Jeremy and Elise
in the Christian nurture of this child?

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

from Hebrews 9 & 10

M: For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that He has died as a ransom to set them free.

P: **Therefore, since we have confidence
to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
by a new and living way opened for us
through the curtain, that is, His body,
and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
let us draw near to God with a sincere heart
in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us
from a guilty conscience
and having our bodies washed with pure water.
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.**

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

Here Is Love

**Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
throughout Heav'n's eternal days.**

**On the mount of crucifixion,
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.**

**Let me, all Thy love accepting,
love Thee, ever all my days;
let me seek Thy kingdom only
and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.**

**In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
and Thy grace my need is meeting,
as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.**

**Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee.**

**Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.**

Words by William Rees (1802–1883); vv. 3–4 attr. to William Williams.
Music by Robert Lowry (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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Scripture text from

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version**.

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Holy Bible, **New International Version®**, NIV®

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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-PCA.ORG

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

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