



December 28, 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.

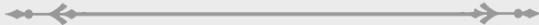
To Parents of Young Children:

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

On this side of eternity, Christmas is still a promise.
Yes, the Savior has come, and with Him peace on earth,
but the story is not finished.
Yes, there is peace in our hearts,
but we long for peace in our world.

Every Christmas is still a “turning of the page” until Jesus returns.
Every December 25 marks another year
that draws us closer to the fulfillment of the ages,
that draws us closer to...home.

Christmas is an invitation to a celebration yet to happen.
If you've got Christmas longing,
you're about to be satisfied...
Just hold on and say with me...
Maranatha! Come Lord!

~Joni Eareckson Tada

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 11:15-17

P: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of His Christ,
and He will reign forever and ever.

**P: We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty,
the One who is and who was,
because You have taken Your great power
and have begun to reign.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Christus Victor

**O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders,
by the blood, You have redeemed us,
led us through mighty waters,
our strength, our song, our sure salvation.**

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah! Amen.*

**O Most High, dwelling among us,
Son of man, sent for sinners,
by Your blood, You have redeemed us,
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
who lived, who died, who rose victorious.**

*Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!*

*With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.*

**O Most High, King of the nations,
rob'd in praise, crowned with splendor,
on that day, who will not tremble
when You stand Christ the Victor
who was and is and is forever.**

**Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!**

**With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen.**

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
be blessing honor, glory, power,
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!**

**With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah!
Sing the victory of the Lamb.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Amen.**

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty,
Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.
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Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
rob'd in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suff'r'ng,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in Him we stand.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory;
grace unmeasured, love untold.**

**Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when He comes.**

Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker
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Publishing; Bleecker Publishing; McKinney Music, Inc.

GOD CLEANSES 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

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶ and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O God, our guide, who once used a star
to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted,
and lose our way.
We fail to follow Your Word and walk in Your ways.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Lead us to the Christ
so that we may follow His way to you. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSON 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 GOOD NEWS

from Galatians 4

When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776);
altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815).

Music by James Ward (1985).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1985 James Ward Music

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 awaking people to new faith in Jesus.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Psalm 13

1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
2 How long will You hide Your face from me?
3 How long must I take counsel in my soul
4 and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
5 How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
6 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
7 light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
8 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
9 lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
10 But I have trusted in Your steadfast love;
11 my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
12 I will sing to the LORD,
13 because He has dealt bountifully with 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

“Post-Christmas Quiet”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES:

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 88:11

The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours;
the world and all that is in it, You have founded them.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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 Ralph Featherstone (1864).

Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876).

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.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Colossians 1:15-20

**P: [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**
**For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities —
all things were created through Him and for Him.**
**And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.**
And He is the head of the body, the church.
**He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.**
**For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.**

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

O Come, All You Unfaithful

**O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.**
**O come, barren and waiting ones,
Weary of praying. Come,
See what your God has done.**

*Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.*

O come, bitter and broken.
Come, with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones,
There is no need to run.
See what your God has done.

*Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.*

*He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.*

*His promise is peace
for those who believe.*

*He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.*

*His promise is peace
for those who believe.*

So come, though you have nothing.
Come, He is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.

**Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.**

**Christ is born. Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.**

Words and music by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin (2020).
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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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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

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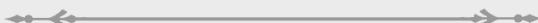
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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