



January 4, 2026



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!

Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

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.

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

*O God... the indescribable sea of love,
the fountain of blessings,
and the source of affection...*

*Open to us today Your sea of love,
and water us with abundant streams
from the riches of Your grace,
and from the sweet springs of Your kindness.*

Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace.

Kindle in us the fire of Your love.

Sow in us reverence for You.

Strengthen our weakness in Your power.

*Bind us close to You and to each other
in one firm and unbreakable bond of unity. Amen.*

~ Clement of Rome

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 Ephesians 1

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world
to be holy and blameless in His sight.

**P: In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons
through Jesus Christ,
in accordance with His pleasure and will —
to the praise of His glorious grace
which He has freely given us in the One He loves.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right to do so.

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD God Almighty,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Glory to You, O LORD, most high.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy!

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826). Music by John B. Dykes (1861).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

This Is Our God

**God our Father, full of power,
Maker of the heavens,
Maker of the world.**

**Forming all things, seen and unseen,
truly the Almighty,
beyond all measure worth;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,
born unto a virgin,
lived a perfect life.**

**Greatly suffered, dying for us.
From the grave He's risen,
seated now on high;
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,
speaking through the prophets,
empowering the Church.**

**Life is given by and through Him,
with the Son and Father,
worshipped and adored;
Holy is His Name!**

**We believe the Lord our God is One,
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!
We believe forever He will reign.
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!**

Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)

Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).
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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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 103

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 and all that is within me,
 bless His holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 and forget not all His benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The LORD works righteousness
 and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses,
 His acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always chide,
 nor will He keep His anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
 nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.
14 For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.
15 As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear Him,
and His righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep His covenant
and remember to do His commandments.
19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,
and His kingdom rules over all.
20 Bless the LORD, O you His angels,
you mighty ones who do His word,
obeying the voice of His word!
21 Bless the LORD, all His hosts,
His ministers, who do His will!
22 Bless the LORD, all His works,
in all places of His dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

CORPORATE CONFESION OF SIN

**P: Lord, You come to us,
but at times we do not recognize You;
You call, but so often we do not follow;
You command, but we do not obey,
You bless us, but we forget to thank You.**

Please forgive and help us.

**Lord, You accept us, but we do not accept others;
You forgive us, but we do not forgive those
who wrong us;
You love us, but we do not love our neighbors.**

Please forgive and help us.

**Lord, You taught us to pray "Your kingdom come,"
but we are too busy building a kingdom of our own;
You identified yourself with outcasts,
the needy, and the poor,
but we are too busy for others;
You suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we are so often preoccupied with ourselves.**

*Please forgive and help 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

John 1:12

But to all who did receive Him [Jesus],
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God...
In Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore.

How He watches o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

“The Church’s Compass”

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES:

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

from Nehemiah 10

We also assume responsibility for bringing
to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits
of our crops and of every fruit tree...

We will not neglect the house of our God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation
by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866).

Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864).

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

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

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.**

Words and music by Steve Cook, Vikki Cook (2012).
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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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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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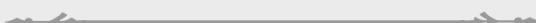
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: **Discipleship Hour**

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

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