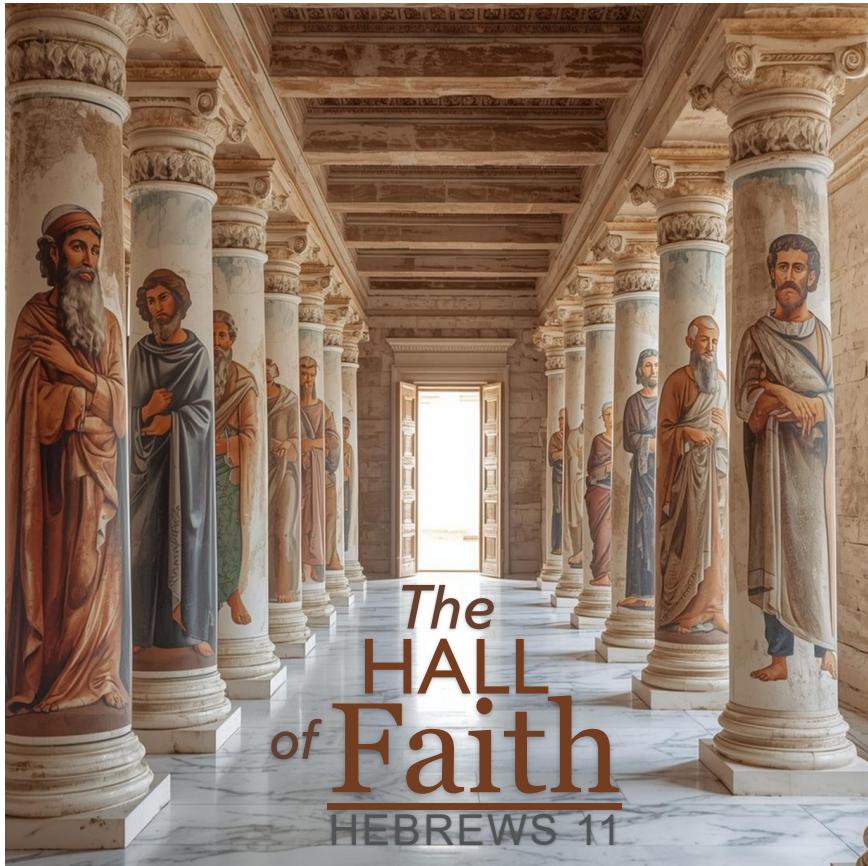




January 25, 2026



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 Maker and Upholder of all things...
Your house is mine, but I am unworthy to meet You there,
and am unfit for spiritual service.
When I enter it I come before You as a sinner,
condemned by conscience and Your Word.
For I am weak in the body and in the wilderness,
ignorant, weak, in danger, and in need of Your aid.
But I am encouraged by Your all-sufficient grace.
Let me go to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You,
knowing that You will come to me and give me peace.
Let me before the broken elements, emblems of Your dying love,
cry to You with broken heart for grace and forgiveness.
I long for that blissful communion of Your people
in Your eternal house in the perfect kingdom.
These are they that follow the Lamb;
May I be of their company!*

*~ "Lord's Day Morning"
from The Valley of Vision (edited)*

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

Romans 11:33-36

M: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom
and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable His judgments,
and His paths beyond tracing out!

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been His counselor?"

"Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?

**P: For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 104

**My soul bless the LORD!
LORD God You are great!
With honor arrayed,
majestic in state,
You cover Yourself
with a garment of light,
and stretch out the sky
as a curtain by night.**

**The beams of Your courts
in waters You laid;
on wings of the wind,
Your pathway You made.
The clouds are Your chariot;
the winds do Your will;
the flames and the lightnings
Your pleasure fulfill.**

**I'll sing to the LORD,
as long as I live,
sing praise to my God
while life He will give.**

**My vast thoughts about Him
will pleasure afford,
for I am rejoicing
each day in the LORD.**

Words from Psalm 104; *The Trinity Psalter*.

Music by Johan Michael Haydn (1737–1806).

Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

Oh What High and Holy Privilege

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege,
once again to gather here
in the name of our Lord Jesus
as we see His Day draw near.
May we join in joyful rev'rence
with thanksgiving, faith, and love
as He welcomes in His people
to the throne of grace above.**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
voices raised in prayer and praise,
boldly bringing great petitions,
gladly singing hymns of faith.
May His grace at work among us
cleanse and heal us from our sin
that our prayers may not be hindered
and our praises honor Him.**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
hearing from the Word of God,
heaven speaks in perfect wisdom,
earth responds and stands in awe.
Do our hearts not burn within us
as we see God's promises
find their final yes in Jesus,
leading us to righteousness!**

**Oh what high and holy priv'lege
this communion that we share
with the Father, Son, and Spirit
and His people everywhere.
As we go with God's great blessing
in the keeping of His grace,
go in peace to love and service
till we join again in praise.**

...

**As we go with God's great blessing
in the keeping of His grace,
go in peace to love and service
till we join again in praise,
till we join again in praise.**

Words and music by Bryan Christopher Fowler, Keith Getty,
Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.

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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 104:1-15

Elder C.J. DeGroot

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great!
- 2 You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
covering Yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.
- 3 He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters;
He makes the clouds His chariot;
He rides on the wings of the wind;
- 4 He makes His messengers winds,
His ministers a flaming fire.
- 5 He set the earth on its foundations,
so that it should never be moved.
- 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7 At Your rebuke they fled;
at the sound of Your thunder they took to flight.
- 8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down
to the place that You appointed for them.
- 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
- 10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;
- 11 they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

- 12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.
13 From Your lofty abode You water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your work.
14 You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
15 that he may bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

CORPORATE CONFESION OF SIN

**P: O Father, we are gathered before You,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken
and contrite, to confess —**

**that we have sinned in thought and word and deed;
that we have not loved You
with all our heart and soul,
that we have not loved You
with all our mind and strength;
that we have not even loved our neighbor
as ourselves.**

**In Your mercy, deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred.**

**But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow.
With You, O LORD, there is forgiveness.
In Your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love You with a holy love.**

SILENT CONFESION 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

1 Peter 1:3-4

**L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
let me to Thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till life's storm is past;
safe into the haven guide;
receive my soul at last!**

**Other refuge have I none;
I helpless hang on Thee;
leave, oh, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.**

**All my trust on Thee is stayed,
all help from Thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
in the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, are all I want;
more than all in Thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.**

**Just and holy is Thy name,
I'm all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am;
Thou full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.**

**Thou of life the fountain art,
let me take of Thee;
spring Thou up within my heart,
for all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).
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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

Hebrews 11:1-2, 39-40 & 12:1-3

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

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

"What is Faith?"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

1 Timothy 6:17

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who provides us with everything to enjoy.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

The King of Love

**The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am His
and He is mine forever.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love He sought me,
and on His shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with You, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.**

**And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
within Your house forever.**

Words by Henry W. Baker (1868). Old Irish Hymn Melody.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Annella Christine and Io Louise Herman

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

Do you acknowledge that although they are
conceived and born in sin,
and therefore are subject to condemnation,
they, as children of believers,
being born within the covenant community,
are set apart in Christ,
and as members of His visible church,
ought to be baptized?

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

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

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

And do you now acknowledge that they belong to God,
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,
to set before them a godly example,
to pray with and for them,
to teach them the doctrines of the gospel
and of our holy religion,
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,
to bring them 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 Zach and Natalie
in the Christian nurture of these children?

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 Acts 13

**P: From David's descendants God brought to Israel
the Savior, Jesus,
just as He promised.**

**The people of Jerusalem and their rulers
did not recognize Jesus,
yet in condemning Him they fulfilled the words
of the prophets.**

**Though they found no proper ground
for a death sentence,
they asked Pilate to have Him executed.**

**When they had carried out all that was written
about Him,
they took Him down from the tree
and laid Him in a tomb.**

**But God raised Him from the dead
and for many days He was seen by those
who had traveled with Him.**

**What God promised our fathers
He has fulfilled for us their children,
by raising up Jesus.**

**Therefore, through Jesus the forgiveness of sins
is proclaimed to you!**

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

I Come By the Blood

**You are the perfect and righteous God
Whose presence bears no sin.**

**You bid me come to Your holy place.
How can I enter in,**

when Your presence bears no sin?

**Through Him who poured out His life for me,
the atoning Lamb of God.**

**Through Him and His work alone,
I boldly come.**

...

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

**You are the high and exalted King,
the One the angels fear.**

**So far above me in every way,
Lord, how can I draw near
to the One the angels fear?**

**Through Him who laid down His life for me,
and ascended to Your side.**

**Through Him, through Jesus alone,
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come ...*

*... by the blood, I come by the cross,
where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
my every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).
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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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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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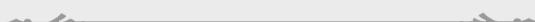
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: **Discipleship Hour**

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

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