



# Ascension PCA

February 22, 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.

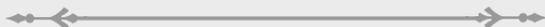
*Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child.

## **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

*Follow thou Me. I am the way and the truth and the life.*

*Without the way there is no going;  
without the truth there is no knowing;  
without the life there is no living.*

*I am the way which thou must follow;  
the truth which thou must believe;  
the life for which thou must hope.*

*I am the inviolable way;  
the infallible truth,  
the never-ending life.*

*I am the straightest way;  
the sovereign truth;  
life true, life blessed, life uncreated.*

*~ Thomas à Kempis*

# 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

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD,  
the compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,  
maintaining love to thousands,  
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us new birth  
into a living hope.**

M: So as a church family we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
He has demonstrated the riches of His mercy to us.  
Praise be to the merciful God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*The God of Abram Praise*

**The God of Abram praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days  
and God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred Name  
forever blest.**

**The God of Abram praise,  
at whose supreme command  
from earth I rise and seek the joys  
at His right hand.**

...

I all on earth forsake,  
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r;  
and Him my only portion make,  
my shield and tow'r.

He by Himself hath sworn;  
I on this oath depend.  
I shall, on eagles wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend.  
I shall behold His face;  
I shall His pow'r adore,  
and sing the wonders of His grace,  
forevermore.

The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high:  
*"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"*  
they ever cry.  
Hail, Abram's God and mine!  
I join the heav'nly lays;  
all might and majesty are Thine  
and endless praise.

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more ...  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing stream does flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through;  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
be Thou still my strength and shield ...  
be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side... . . .

**Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.**

Welsh hymn: words by William Williams (1745);  
stanza 1 translated by Peter Williams (1771),  
stanza 2-3 translated by William Williams (1772).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Psalms 106:1-23*

*Elder Brett Chase*

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
or declare all His praise?
- 3 Blessed are they who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!
- 4 Remember me, O LORD, when You show favor to Your people;  
help me when You save them,
- 5 that I may look upon the prosperity of Your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation,  
that I may glory with Your inheritance.
- 6 Both we and our fathers have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness.
- 7 Our fathers, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider Your wondrous works;  
they did not remember the abundance of Your steadfast love,  
but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.
- 8 Yet He saved them for His name's sake,  
that He might make known His mighty power.
- 9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry,  
and He led them through the deep as through a desert.
- 10 So He saved them from the hand of the foe  
and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.
- 11 And the waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.
- 12 Then they believed His words;  
they sang His praise.

13 But they soon forgot His works;  
they did not wait for His counsel.  
14 But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness,  
and put God to the test in the desert;  
15 He gave them what they asked,  
but sent a wasting disease among them.  
16 When men in the camp were jealous of Moses  
and Aaron, the holy one of the LORD,  
17 the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,  
and covered the company of Abiram.  
18 Fire also broke out in their company;  
the flame burned up the wicked.  
19 They made a calf in Horeb  
and worshiped a metal image.  
20 They exchanged the glory of God  
for the image of an ox that eats grass.  
21 They forgot God, their Savior,  
who had done great things in Egypt,  
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.  
23 Therefore He said He would destroy them —  
had not Moses, His chosen one,  
stood in the breach before Him,  
to turn away His wrath from destroying them.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord, You are the Bread of Life.  
Our souls hunger for You.  
Without You, our spirits faint.  
And yet, we have refused to eat.  
We have fed our souls on the husks of the world,  
we have numbed our hunger with the delicacies of sin,  
we have neglected the Bread of Heaven  
which alone sustains us.  
And so, we are guilty and in need.  
We are hungry, we are weak,  
we are powerless in the day of trouble  
for we have forsaken You, the true Bread.  
Forgive our sins. Feed our souls again.  
And fill us anew with the joy of life in Jesus. 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*John 6:27,35*

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal...

Jesus said to them, "*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.*"

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

**And can it be that I should gain  
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me?**

*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**He left His Father's throne above,  
so free, so infinite His grace.  
Humbled Himself, so great His love,  
and bled for all His chosen race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me.**

*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

**No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

**Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!**

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).  
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

*Genesis 12:1-4, 17:1-8, 15-21 & Hebrews 11:8-16*

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make My covenant between Me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.

## 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

*"A Better Country"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Matthew 6:19-21*

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in  
and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...  
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Is He Worthy?*

Do you feel the world is broken?     **(We do)**  
Do you feel the shadows deepen?     **(We do)**  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through?     **(We do)**  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new?     **(We do)**

Is all creation groaning?             **(It is)**  
Is a new creation coming?           **(It is)**  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
the light within our midst?         **(It is)**  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?     **(It is)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is!***

Does the Father truly love us?     **(He does)**  
Does the Spirit move among us?   **(He does)**  
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold  
forever those He loves?           **(He does)**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us?   **(He does)**

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?***

***The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.***

*From ev'ry people and tribe,  
every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
to reign with the Son.*

*Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy, is He worthy,  
is He worthy of this? He is!*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!*

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).  
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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.

### EUCHARISTIC 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

*When Peace Like a River*

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet,  
though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed His own blood for my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)  
with my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —  
my sin — not in part, but the whole —  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*It is well (it is well),  
with my soul; (with my soul);  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.**

***It is well,***                    (*it is well*)  
***with my soul;***            (*with my soul*)  
***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***It is well,***                    (*it is well*)  
***with my soul;***            (*with my soul*)  
***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford (1873).

Music by Philip P. Bliss (1876)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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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## **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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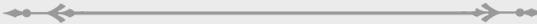
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## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

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