

September 13, 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

Honor and praise be to You, O Lord, my God, for all the tender mercies You have again given to me through another week. Continual thanks be to You for creating me in Your own likeness; for redeeming me by the precious blood of Your dear Son when I was lost; and for sanctifying me with the Holy Spirit. For Your help and support with my needs; Your protection in the many dangers of body and soul; Your comfort in my sorrows; and for sparing me in life and giving me so long a time to repent.

For all these benefits, O most merciful Father, that I have received by Your goodness alone, I thank You; and I pray that You will always grant me Your Holy Spirit, so that I may grow in grace, in steadfast faith, and in perseverance in all good works, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

-John Knox

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: Psalm 104:31-34

M: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in His works,
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!

**P: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
For I rejoice in the LORD**

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

Across the Lands

**You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
Every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You calmed the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered,
that the guilty may go free.**

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

With a shout You rose victorious,

wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.
You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Come Thou Fount

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor

**daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord no longer tarry
bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pwe'r will keep me
till I'm home with Thee at last**

Words by Robert Robinson \ Bob Kauflin

Music by John Wyeth (1813).

(as published by Sovereign Grace Music)

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

Psalm 123

To You I lift up my eyes,
O You who are enthroned in the heavens!
Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till He has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,

of the contempt of the proud.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: We confess, Merciful Father, that we struggle to live as Your people. We do not love as You call us to nor as Jesus did. We are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. Forgive us Lord, for we have forgotten how we have been loved. Make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of Your love at the cross. Show us what it cost You to give up Your Son in order that we might become Your sons and daughters. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness.

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

Isaiah 46:12,13 & 2 Corinthians 5:21

L: Listen to Me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: I will bring near My righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put My salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

In Jesus, your sins are forgiven

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Rock of Ages

**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 awakening people to new faith in Jesus.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

Romans 1:8-17

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you,, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well

as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

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 Reputation of Faith"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

It is my story, my Father's plan.

The Son has rescued me.

Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.

My highest joy and my deepest need.

Now and forever, He is my light.

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.
No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.
And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

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 Delight (Isaiah 61:10)

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,
my soul rejoices in my God. (2x)**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness. (2x)**

**As a bridegroom adorns
his head like a priest,
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me
with garments of salvation;
He has arrayed me
in robes of righteousness. (2x)
So I delight, greatly in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God (2x)**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**P: Heavenly Father, we thank You for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious body
and blood of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and
for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are
living members of the body of Your Son, and heirs
of Your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work You
have given us to do, to love and serve You as faithful
witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to You, and
to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and
forever. Amen.**

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
to the **P. O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

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