

October 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

*You are my steadfast, You never change.
Not land, seas or heavens could keep me from You.
There is no divide.*

*You are always on my side, pursuing me out of my fears,
You always draw me near.
There is no lover that does what You do,
Your love seeps into my veins and I begin to love like You.*

*Love, never stop coming toward me,
Love, never stop changing me,
Love, let there be no divide.*

-Kateland Hilty

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: Isaiah 40:25-31

M: To whom then will you compare Me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of His might,
and because He is strong in power
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

P: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

He does not faint or grow weary;

His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and to him who has no might He increases strength.

**Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;**

but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King,

help us Thy name to sing,

help us to praise.

Father, all glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

**Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
gird on Thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend.
Come, and Thy people bless,
and give Thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.**

**Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.**

Words Anonymous (ca. 1757). Music by Felice de Giardini (1769). PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Lord, For Your Glory

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.
We magnify Your holy name.
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

Almighty Father, we are Your children.

**You have been faithful to Your own.
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann, Grant Cunningham (1998)

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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 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nation,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!
Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Holy God, I offer to You my contrite and
humbled heart. I offer to You my groans,
messengers of true and real sorrow over sin. Of
myself, I fail. But in You, hope is repaired. In You,
I find joy once again. I am weary and heavy
laden. You restore my soul and give rest to my soul.**

**O most righteous God, yet most kind Father,
behold how unjustly Your Son suffered for me.**

Forget how unworthily I, Your servant, have acted. Look to Christ's deep wounds and plunge my sins into the deepest depths of the sea of Your mercy.

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

P: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father - to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

**Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy
presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me**

**Restore unto me,
the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit
within me.**

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 2: 1-16

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶ He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

¹² For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

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

"Prone to Judge"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,

I have a strong, a perfect plea,

a great High Priest whose name is "Love",

Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,

my name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heav'n He stands,

no tongue can bid me thence de-part,

no tongue can bid me thence de-part.

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Becasue the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied,
to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable, I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words: Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863
musid: Vikki Cook, 1997; UBP: CCLI #105650

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

adapted from Ephesians 2:1-10

P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we followed the ways of this world, of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**All of us lived among them at one time,
gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following**

its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

**But because of His great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even
when we were dead in transgressions.**

It is by grace we have been saved.

**And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
in order that in the coming ages He might show the
incomparable riches of His grace,
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

**For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith - and
this not from ourselves, it is the gift of God-**

It is not by works. None of us can boast.

**For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

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

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.**

**He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
for my life is wholly bound to His.**

Oh, how strange and divine,

I can sing: all is mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.**

**I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need His power is displayed.**

**To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley He will lead.**

**Oh, the night has been won,
and I shall overcome.**

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

**To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.**

**Oh, the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!**

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;
for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me,
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

**To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to Him.**

**When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:**

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

**When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:**

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE:

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior

**live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His pow'r.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.**

**May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.**

Words by Kate B. Wilkinson (1925). Music by A. Cyril Barham-Gould (1925; alt. 1990)
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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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