



Ascension PCA

February 7, 2021

THE BOOK OF
Galatians



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.

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

*Father, I know that all my life is portioned out for me;
The changes that are sure to come, I do not fear to see:
I ask Thee for a present mind, intent on pleasing Thee.*

*I ask Thee for the daily strength, to none that ask denied,
A mind to blend with outward life, while keeping at Thy side,
Content to fill a little space, if Thou be glorified.*

*In service which Thy will appoints there are no bonds for me;
My secret heart is taught the truth that makes Thy children free;
A life of self-renouncing love is one of liberty.*

~ Anna Letitia Waring

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!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 33:18–22

M: Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love,
that He may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

P: **Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in You.**

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.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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 shall 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!
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 & music by Neil DeGraide, Doug Plank, Dave Fournier, Zach Jones, George Romanacce
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OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 7:21–34

²¹ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. ²² For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. ²³ But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ ²⁴ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. ²⁵ From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all My servants the prophets to them, day after day. ²⁶ Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

²⁷ “So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. ²⁸ And you shall say to them, ‘This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

²⁹ “Cut off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.’

³⁰ "For the sons of Judah have done evil in My sight, declares the LORD. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by My name, to defile it.
³¹ And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My mind. ³² Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere.
³³ And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away. ³⁴ And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste."

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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord God Almighty,
As we gaze at Your holiness,
we tremble in awe.
As we peer in at our own hearts,
we are devastated by our sinfulness.**

**Show us our Savior! Heal us by His wounds.
We come boldly to You only because the woe
that we deserve has been entirely poured out
on Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

...

**Thank you, Father,
that the cross stands empty now.
Jesus is risen, and You have made us alive in Him.**

**Grant us the grace to live lives
set apart by Your grace,
reflecting Your glory,
that the world might see and bring glory to You.**

In Jesus' name we pray. 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 54:8, 43:25, 44:22

M: *"With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,
says the LORD, your Redeemer.
I am He who blots out your transgressions
for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.
Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."*

Believe this good news and live in peace. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of His merit,
There is joy and life in Him.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of His merit,
There is joy and life in Him.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Lo! The incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture wholly;
Let no other trust intrude.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.***

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

Galatians 5:1–15

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.

³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Naught of good that I have done,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Glory, glory this I see,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

All my praise for this I bring,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow

That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know,

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

1. Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?
2. Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God, humbling yourself, offering no morality or righteousness of your own, but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?
3. Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin, as the Prophet for all your truth, and as the King of all your life, resting on Him and His righteousness alone for your salvation?
4. Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling by reliance on the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God?
5. Do you promise to support this communion with your prayers and offerings, to strive for its purity and peace, and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand)

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome these brothers and these sisters as members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities to build up them up and to seek to practice with them true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

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,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please come forward to receive the elements at the table, then return to your seats. Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.

SONG OF MEDITATION

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.**

**How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
My guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.**

**It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.**

**Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend
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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

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.**

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:30AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

Meeting Address:

8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 838, Lynnwood, WA 98046

APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)
(425) 286-8617

office@ascension-pca.org

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@ascension-pca.org*

ASSISTANT PASTOR:

Rev. Edward Volz *ed@ascension-pca.org*

PASTORAL INTERN:

Austin Clement *clement.austin@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rina Kroes *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

Brett Chase *brett@ascension-pca.org*

Bob Miller *bob@ascension-pca.org*

Bo Stocklin *bostocklin@ascension-pca.org*

Chris Sledge *chris@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

Philip Barrow *philip@ascension-pca.org*

Peter Contreras *peter@ascension-pca.org*

Fred Wilson *fred@ascension-pca.org*

Kyle Bartlett *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Leandra Howell *leandra.m.howell@gmail.com*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

Sheila Bloedow *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Diane Miller *drsm40@gmail.com*

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.