



Ascension PCA

February 28, 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

*We can no more be a Christian
and have nothing to do with the church
than we can be a person
and not be in a family...
For God never makes private,
secret salvation deals with people.
His relationships with us are
personal, true; intimate, yes; but private, no.
We are a family in Christ.
When we become Christians,
we are among brothers and sisters in faith.
No Christian is an only child.*

~ Eugene Peterson

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

Isaiah 57:15

**P: For this is what the high and exalted One says —
He who lives forever, Whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is
contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Oh How Good It Is

**Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

...

**Oh how good it is
On this journey we share,
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.**

**For the weak find strength,
The afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another,
Forgive as He forgives.**

**When we live as one,
We all share in the love
Of the Son, with the Father,
And the Spirit.**

***So with one voice
We'll sing to the Lord;
And with one heart
We'll live out His Word.***

***Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words & music by Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Ross Holmes | Stuart Townend
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The Church's One Foundation

**The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.**

**From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder
We see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed;
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.**

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 9:10–26

- ¹⁰ “I will take up weeping and wailing for the mountains,
and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness,
because they are laid waste so that no one passes through,
and the lowing of cattle is not heard;
both the birds of the air and the beasts
have fled and are gone.
- ¹¹ I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins,
a lair of jackals,
and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation,
without inhabitant.”

¹² Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? ¹³ And the LORD says: “Because they have forsaken My law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, ¹⁴ but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. ¹⁵ Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink.

¹⁶ I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”

- ¹⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts:
“Consider, and call for the mourning women to come;
send for the skillful women to come;
¹⁸ let them make haste and raise a wailing over us,
that our eyes may run down with tears
and our eyelids flow with water.
- ¹⁹ For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion:
‘How we are ruined!

We are utterly shamed,
because we have left the land,
because they have cast down our dwellings.”

20 Hear, O women, the word of the LORD,
and let your ear receive the word of His mouth;
teach to your daughters a lament,
and each to her neighbor a dirge.

21 For death has come up into our windows;
it has entered our palaces,
cutting off the children from the streets
and the young men from the squares.

22 Speak: “Thus declares the LORD,
‘The dead bodies of men shall fall
like dung upon the open field,
like sheaves after the reaper,
and none shall gather them.’”

23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast
in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might,
let not the rich man boast in his riches,²⁴ but let him who
boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me,
that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice,
and righteousness in the earth. For in these things
I delight, declares the LORD.”

25 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will punish all those who are circumcised
merely in the flesh —²⁶ Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons
of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert
who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations
are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel
are uncircumcised in heart.”

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: God of mercy and grace,
who poured out Your Spirit upon us,
We confess we have grieved You.**

**You promised to be Living Water
springing up in us,
but we have been content with
the mud holes of our souls.**

**You promised to give us gifts to serve others,
but we have only cared to serve ourselves.**

**You promised to give us the grace
to bear one another's burdens,
but we have so often turned a "blind eye."**

**You promised to empower us to be witnesses,
but we have preferred to hide in silence.**

**Rushing Wind, blow through this temple,
blowing out the dust within.**

**Come and breathe Your breath upon us,
we've been born again,
through Jesus our Savior, 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 GOOD NEWS

**M: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ,
and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
If a man is in Christ, he becomes a new person —
the past is finished and gone, everything has become
new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.**

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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.
Yet not I, but through Christ in 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Galatians 5:25 – 6:5

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

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 Spirit-Filled Love”

Rev. Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SONG OF RESPONSE

How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

**How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?”**

**“Why was I made to hear Your voice,
and enter while there’s room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?”**

**‘Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
Send Your victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Your whole church full,
that all the chosen race.
May, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing Your redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

from 1 Peter 2

P: We believe:

**We are a chosen people,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
a people belonging to God,
that we may declare the praises
of Him who called us out of darkness
into His wonderful light.**

**Once we were not a people,
but now we are the people of God;
once we had not received mercy,
but now we have received mercy.**

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

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free;
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.***

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free;
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.***

***My chains are gone, I've been set free;
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.***

Words and music by Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio
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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*

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to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed.