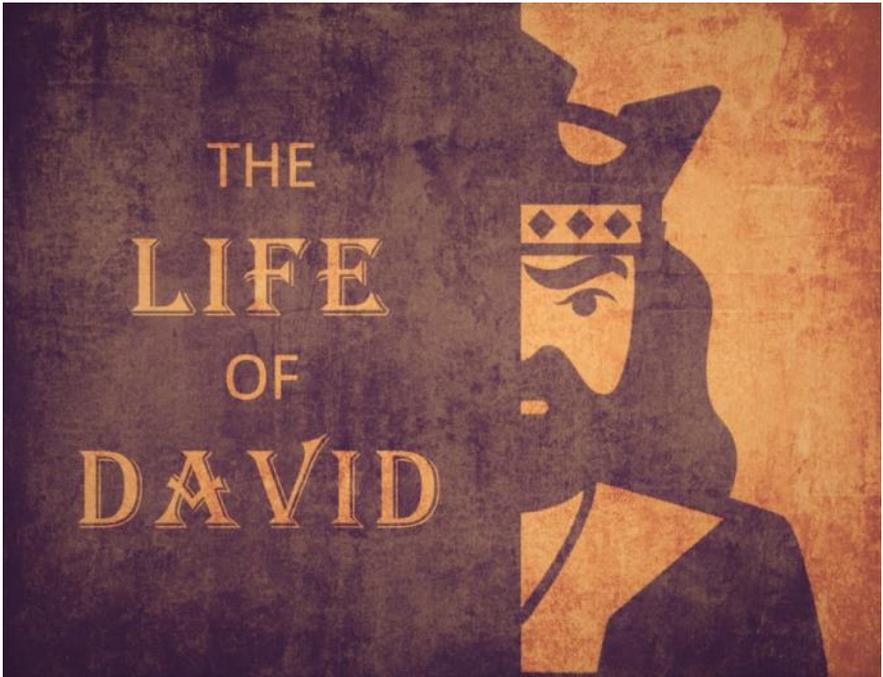




# Ascension PCA

May 2, 2021



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

*One there is above all others,  
well deserves the name of Friend.  
His is love beyond a brother's,  
costly, free, and knows no end.  
They who once His kindness prove,  
find it everlasting love.*

*When He lived on earth abased,  
Friend of sinners was His name.  
Now above all glory raised,  
He rejoices in the same.  
Still He calls them brethren, friends,  
and to all their wants attends.*

*Could we bear from one another,  
what He daily bears from us?  
Yet this glorious Friend and Brother,  
loves us though we treat Him thus.  
Though for good we render ill,  
He accounts us brethren still.*

*Oh for grace our hearts to soften!  
Teach us, Lord, at length to love!  
We, alas, forget too often,  
what a Friend we have above.  
But when home our souls are brought,  
we will love Thee as we ought.*

~ John Newton

# 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

*Jeremiah 10:6–7*

M: There is none like You, O LORD;  
You are great, and Your name is great in might.  
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?  
For this is Your due;  
for among all the wise ones of the nations  
and in all their kingdoms  
there is none like You.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*(in unison)*

**P: Father,  
whose glory is ever above us,  
whose mercy is ever with us,  
and whose everlasting arms  
are ever underneath us,  
holy, holy, holy is Your name!  
Hear us, Father  
for we gather together in the name of Jesus,  
Your only begotten, well-beloved Son,  
that in Him we might recognize Your presence,  
that in Him we might see Your glory.  
Help us, Spirit... for we are a distracted  
and forgetful people.  
Revive us and receive us again in the name of Jesus.  
To You, O Father, together with the Son  
and with the Holy Spirit,  
One God from all eternity and to all eternity,  
Be glory, wisdom, power, and dominion evermore.  
Amen.**

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *Come, Holy One*

**Hasten now,  
O loving Lord to us,  
We're thirsty.  
Fill these souls,  
Spirit, every hour,  
We need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on,  
The perfect path O Lord,  
And may we  
Sin no more,  
This spotless bride, the Church,  
Is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One,  
Come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory,  
Lord Jesus.***

Words & music by Eric J. Marshall  
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

## *Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

...

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him,  
The One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy,  
Forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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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.*

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*John 1:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Mighty God, the forces that are arrayed against us  
in this life far outmatch our little strength.**

**We do not wrestle against flesh and blood  
but against powerful spiritual forces  
in the heavenly realms.**

**Our enemy is strong and crafty,  
and if we try to stand against him  
in our own strength we will inevitably fail.**

**Father, we confess that we often trust  
in our own wisdom and strength,  
as if we were mighty and self-sufficient.  
Forgive us.**

**Jesus, thank You that You have entered the battle  
on our behalf,  
leaving the safety of heaven  
to engage the challenges of living as a human.  
Thank You that You were triumphant for us,  
redeeming us and giving our souls  
complete safety in You.**

**Holy Spirit, when You give us the grace to stand,  
help us to remember that the strength is Yours  
and not ours.**

**Help us to learn our own weakness  
and depend more faithfully upon You.**

**In Jesus' all sufficient 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.*

# THE GOOD NEWS

*Romans 8:37–39; Revelation 3:21*

M: In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
To Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).  
Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)  
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

*1 Samuel 17:3–11, 32–52*

<sup>3</sup> And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. <sup>4</sup> And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup> And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.

<sup>8</sup> He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." <sup>10</sup> And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." <sup>11</sup> When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

<sup>32</sup> And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." <sup>33</sup> And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." <sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,

<sup>35</sup> I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

<sup>37</sup> And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, <sup>39</sup> and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

<sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup> And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup> And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."

<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

<sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.

And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hand."

<sup>48</sup> When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. <sup>51</sup> Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. <sup>52</sup> And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

## 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

*"The Champion"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*



# PRAYER

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till Thy inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). PUBLIC DOMAIN  
Music by Luke Morton (2012)  
Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## 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

*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.*

## PRAYER | MEDITATION

# 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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Scripture text from

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## **ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

### **Meeting Address:**

8224 220<sup>th</sup> 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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Please make sure that checks are made out to  
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and that any automatic payments are being sent  
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