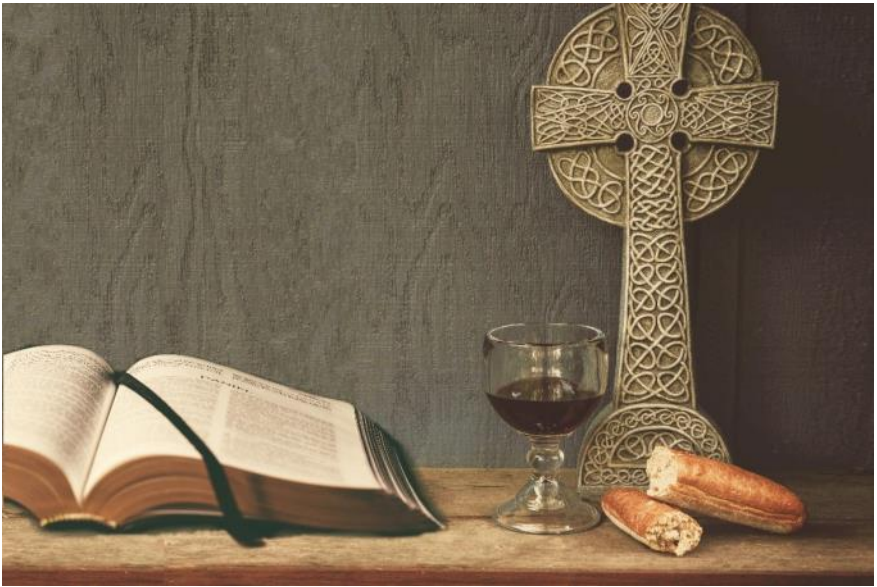




Ascension PCA

August 14, 2022



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 Cards:** We would love to know that you were here this morning and encourage you to fill in a Connect Cards so that we can follow up with you, answer your questions, or pray for you. We also invite you to join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.
- **To Parents of Young Children:** We have a staffed nursery for babies to age 3 across the hallway. We encourage younger children to remain with us and participate 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.
- **Bibles:** If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles as our gift to you to take home.
- **APC @ a Glance:** Please feel free to join us for any of our weekly events and fellowship opportunities. More information can be found on the blue sheets on the welcome table.

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Scripture text from

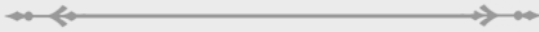
The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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Holy Bible, **New International Version®**, NIV®

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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

*Believe in Christ, and the treasures of heaven
are swept into your bosom.*

Believe in Christ, and a present salvation is yours.

Believe in Christ, and the hope of glory dawns upon your soul.

Believe in Christ, and you are linked with the bliss of eternity.

You have nothing to do, only to BELIEVE.

*Away with conditions — away with reasonings —
away with questionings —*

*and immediately, simply, only BELIEVE that Jesus Christ
came into the world to save sinners, and you are SAVED!*

It is when faith in Christ is simple that it is strong;

when its hand is empty that it is full;

when it comes in its deepest poverty that it is rich;

*and when it is the most weak in created dependencies
that it is the strongest in God.*

*See, then, that you bear this fruit of righteousness,
and so evidence your new creation.*

*Have faith in God — in His word of promise,
in His infinite power, in His immutable faithfulness.*

~ Octavius Winslow

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

Nehemiah 9:5b,6

M: Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

P: You are the LORD, You alone.
You have made the heaven, the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and You preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships You.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice, like mountains
high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight.

**All praise we would render,
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
of light hideth Thee!**

Traditional Welsh hymn
PUBLIC DOMAIN

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine —
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry, to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns, or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Words & music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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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

Jeremiah 29:1–23

¹ These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ² This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. ³ The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:

⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in My name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

¹⁰ "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.

⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

¹⁵ "Because you have said, 'The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon,' ¹⁶ thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, and concerning all the people who dwell in this city, your kinsmen who did not go out with you into exile: ¹⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts, behold, I am sending on them sword, famine, and pestilence, and I will make them like vile figs that are so rotten they cannot be eaten. ¹⁸ I will pursue them with sword, famine, and pestilence, and will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, a terror, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them, ¹⁹ because they did not pay attention to My words, declares the LORD, that I persistently sent to you by My servants the prophets, but you would not listen, declares the LORD.' ²⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles whom I sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

²¹ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying a lie to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall strike them down before your eyes. ²² Because of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire," ²³ because they have done an outrageous thing in Israel, they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and they have spoken in My name lying words that I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, declares the LORD."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O LORD, You are very good;

**You have shown compassion on all You have made.
You are the fountain of every good thing.**

**But too often, we have drunk from the fountain —
taken Your good gifts and made them our own —
while failing to gratefully acknowledge the Giver.**

**O LORD, in Your goodness and grace
look upon us in our sinful folly and have mercy.**

**Forgive our ingratitude,
forgive our squandering of Your gifts.
and restore us to that which is truly good
according to Your good grace extended to sinners
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

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.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 5:20b, 21

M: We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
For our sake He made Him to be sin
who knew no sin,
so that in Him we might become
the righteousness of God.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer:
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy one.**

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.**

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

**When I stand in glory,
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever,
in that holy place.**

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

***Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.***

Words and music by Melody Green.

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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

1 John 2:18–27

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He made to us — eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie — just as it has taught you, abide in Him.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

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
men 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.**

Words by Samuel John Stone (1866)
Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

based on the Belgic Confession, Art. 20–21

M: What do you believe about the work of God?

**P: We believe that God —
who is perfectly merciful and also very just —
sent His Son to assume the nature
in which the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.**

M: And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

**P: We believe that Jesus Christ presented himself
in our name before His Father,
to appease His wrath with full satisfaction
by offering Himself on the tree of the cross
and pouring out His precious blood
for the cleansing of our sins,
as the prophets had predicted.**

M: Why did He endure all this?

P: He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

M: What comfort does this give you?

**P: We find all comforts in His wounds
and have no need to seek or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God
than this one and only sacrifice,
once made,
which renders believers perfect forever.**

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.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

SONG OF MEDITATION

The Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love!**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!***

Words and music by Keith Getty and 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



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

**10:00AM: 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

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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.