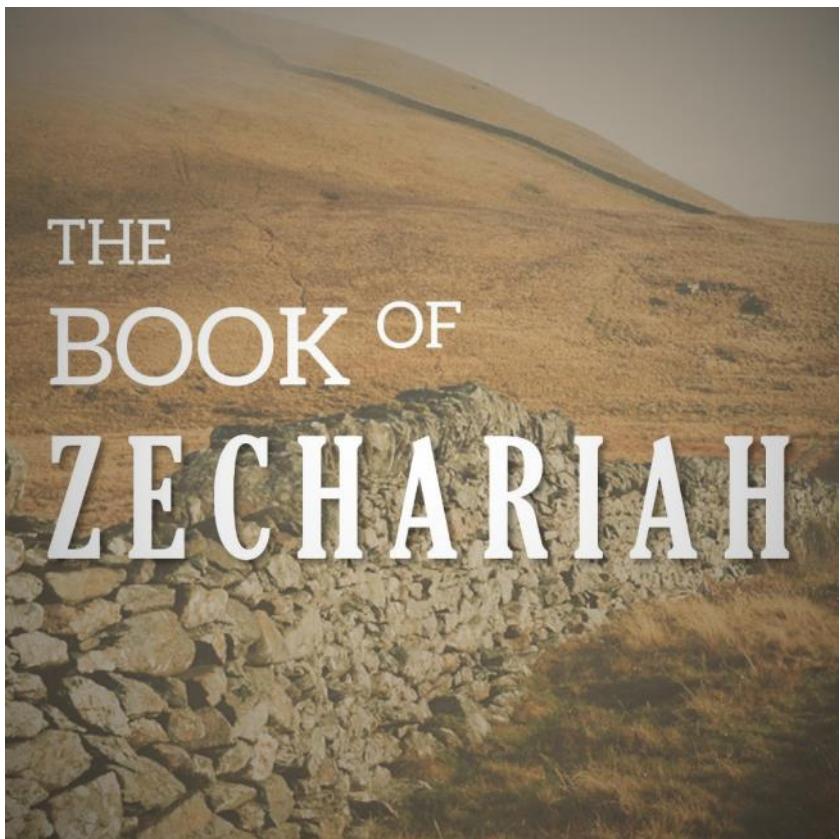




August 28, 2022



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.



Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from

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

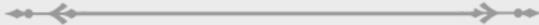
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Holy Bible, **New International Version®**, NIV®

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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

*Your final words fulfil Your ancient Name,  
a promise hidden in Emmanuel,  
A promise that can never fade or fail:  
I will be with you till the end of time;  
I will be with you when you scale the height,  
and with you when you fall to earth again,  
With you when you flourish in the light,  
and with you through the shadow and the pain.  
Our God with us, You leave and yet remain.  
Risen and hidden with us everywhere;  
Hidden and flowing in the wine we share,  
broken and hidden in the growing grain.  
Be with us till we know we are forgiven,  
be with us till we're with You in heaven.*

~ Malcolm Guite

# 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

*2 Samuel 22:50 & 1 Chronicles 29:10-11,13*

M: Praise the LORD among the nations  
and sing praises to His Name.

**P: Blessed are You, O LORD,  
the God of Israel our Father,  
forever and ever.**

**Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the victory and the majesty.**

**We thank You, our God,  
and praise Your glorious Name.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,  
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;  
without our aid He did us make;  
we are His folk, He doth us feed,  
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,  
approach with joy His courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless His name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is forever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.**

Psalm 100. Words by William Kethe (1561),  
Music by Louis Bourgeois' Genevan Psalter (1551).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,  
precious Redeemer, and Friend,  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could  
rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace;  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
hopelessly lost the way,  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

**You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore,  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**Almighty, infinite Father,  
faithfully loving Your own;  
Here in our weakness You find us  
falling before Your throne,  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

**You are the One that we praise,  
You are the One we adore,  
You give the healing and grace  
our hearts always hunger for;  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse  
© 1989 Word Music ASCAP & Dayspring Music BME

## **GOD CLEANSES 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 11:28-44*

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to Him.

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met Him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup> And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me." <sup>43</sup> When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

## CORPORATE CONFESION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Father,**

**We confess to You our lack of faith  
in the reality of the resurrection.**

**We sin and live as though Christ isn't to be believed  
when He declared "I am the resurrection,"  
and as though He Himself didn't rise from the grave.  
Instead, we live in the deadness of our flesh  
as though You too are dead.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to be children who live by faith  
and not by sight.**

**Impress upon us the reality of what we cannot see —  
Jesus' hands in heaven,  
forever bearing scars that proclaim  
that the punishment of our sins  
has been paid in full.**

**Strengthen us to become people of growing faith  
who hate our sin and run from it  
until love's redeeming work is completely finished.**

**Through Jesus we plead... amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSON 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

*John 11:25,26*

M: Jesus said to her,

*"I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?"*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*All I Have Is Christ*

**I once was lost in darkest night,  
yet thought I knew the way;  
The sin that promised joy and life  
had led me to the grave.**

**I had no hope that You would own,  
a rebel to Your will.**

**And if You had not loved me first,  
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,  
indifferent to the cost,  
You looked upon my helpless state  
and led me to the cross.**

...

**And I beheld God's love displayed,  
You suffered in my place,  
You bore the wrath reserved for me,  
now all I know is grace!**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,  
and live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
could never come from me.**

**Oh Father use my ransomed life  
in any way You choose,  
And let my song forever be  
my only boast is You.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!  
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin  
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing )

## 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

**Zechariah 1:1–6**

<sup>1</sup> In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to Me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.'

But they did not hear or pay attention to Me,  
declares the LORD.<sup>5</sup> Your fathers, where are they?  
And the prophets, do they live forever?

<sup>6</sup> But My words and My statutes, which I commanded  
My servants the prophets, did they not overtake your  
fathers? So they repented and said, 'As the LORD of  
hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds,  
so has He dealt with us."

## 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

*"Return to Me"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Proverbs 3:9*

Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Your Mercy, My God*

**Your mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;  
Your free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Has won my affection, and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Your sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But through Your free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Your mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Your goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.**

**Great Father of mercies, Your goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Your crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.**

Words attr. to John Stocker. Music by Sandra McCracken (2001)

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Music: © 2001 Same Old Dress Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God  
and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

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?

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?

...

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling  
by reliance on the Holy Spirit  
according to the Word of God?

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 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.**

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Knox Zachary Herman*

Do you acknowledge Knox's need  
of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ  
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you acknowledge that although he is  
conceived and born in sin,  
and therefore is subject to condemnation,  
he, as a child of believers,  
being born within the covenant community,  
is set apart in Christ,  
and as a member of His visible church,  
ought to be baptized?

Do you realize that this sacrament  
does not give salvation to Knox,  
but he must, by God's grace,  
come to faith, repentance and obedience  
when he reaches the age of discretion?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf  
and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ  
for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents,  
are covenanting with God to raise Knox  
in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?  
And do you now acknowledge that he belongs to God,  
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,  
to set before him a godly example,  
to pray with and for him,  
to teach him the doctrines of the gospel  
and of our holy religion,  
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,  
to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

*TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)*

M: Do you as a congregation promise to undertake  
the responsibility of encouraging, praying for,  
and as God gives you opportunity,  
assisting Zach and Natalie  
in the Christian nurture of this child?

P: **We do.**

## 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.

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*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,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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.**

## 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

*Jesus, Strong and Kind*

**Jesus said that if I thirst  
I should come to Him.  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak  
I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful,  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said that if I fear  
I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my shield.  
I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful,  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said if I am lost  
He will come to me.  
And He showed me on that cross  
He will come to me.**

***For the Lord is good and faithful,  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Colin Buchanan.  
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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 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](mailto: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.