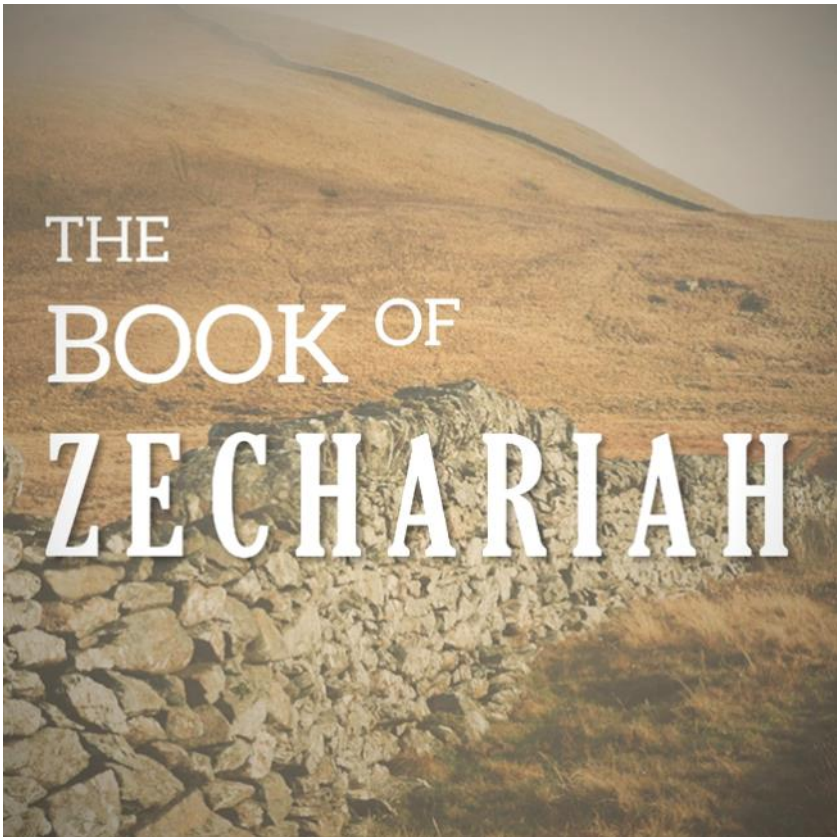




**Ascension** PCA

**September 4, 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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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

*Increase my faith, O merciful Father,  
that I may not swerve at any time from Your heavenly word.  
Give me an increase of hope and love,  
together with a careful keeping of all Your commandments,  
that no hardness of heart, no hypocrisy,  
no lust of the eyes, nor any methods of the world,  
may draw me away from obedience to You.  
And, since we live now in these most perilous times,  
let Your fatherly providence defend me  
against all violence and harm. Amen.*

~ John Knox

# 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

*Daniel 2:20-22*

- M: Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are His.  
He changes times and seasons;  
He deposes kings and raises up others.  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the discerning.
- P: He reveals deep and hidden things;  
He knows what lies in darkness,  
and light dwells with Him.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

*followed by the Lord's Prayer (in unison)*

- P: Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## *Psalm 104*

**My soul bless the LORD!  
LORD God You are great!  
With honor arrayed,  
majestic in state,  
You cover Yourself  
with a garment of light,  
And stretch out the sky  
as a curtain by night.**

**The beams of Your courts  
in waters You laid;  
On wings of the wind,  
Your pathway You made.  
The clouds are Your chariot;  
the winds do Your will;  
The flames and the lightnings  
Your pleasure fulfill.**

**I'll sing to the LORD,  
as long as I live,  
Sing praise to my God  
while life He will give.  
My vast thoughts about Him  
will pleasure afford,  
For I am rejoicing  
each day in the LORD.**

Words from Psalm 104; *The Trinity Psalter*.  
Music by Johan Michael Haydn (1737–1806).  
Words: © 2012 Crown and Covenant Publications  
Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *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, Radiancy 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). Music by Luke Morton (2012).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## 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 11:45-57*

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what He did, believed in Him, <sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

<sup>47</sup> So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." <sup>49</sup> But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all.

<sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." <sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for

the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

<sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put Him to death.

<sup>54</sup> Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there He stayed with the disciples.

<sup>55</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. <sup>56</sup> They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That He will not come to the feast at all?"

<sup>57</sup> Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest Him.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*from "The Broken Heart" in the Valley of Vision*

**P: O Merciful LORD, not a day of our lives has passed  
that has not proved us guilty in Your sight.  
Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart,  
praise has often been praiseless sound,  
and even our best deeds have been tainted  
with flawed motives.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Blessed Jesus, though our sins rise to heaven,  
Your merits soar above them.**

**We appeal from the throne of perfect justice  
to Your throne of boundless grace.**

**We are guilty, but pardoned,  
lost, but saved,  
wandering, but found,  
sinning, but cleansed.**

**Give us perpetual broken-heartedness,  
keep us always clinging to the cross,  
flood us every moment with descending grace. 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

*Romans 8:1,38,39*

M: There is therefore no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
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.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Depth of Mercy*

**Depth of mercy! Can there be,  
mercy reaching even me?  
God, the Just, His wrath forbears,  
me the chief of sinners, spares.  
So many times my heart has strayed  
from His kind and perfect ways;  
Making clear my desp'rate need,  
for His blood —  
poured out for me.  
Give me grace, Lord, let me own,  
all the wrongs that I have done.  
Let me now my sins deplore,  
look to You and sin no more.  
There, for me, the Savior stands  
holding forth His wounded hands,  
Scars which ever cry for me;  
Once condemned —  
but now set free.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707–1788).

Music by Bob Kauflin (1997).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise



# 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

*Zechariah 1:7-17*

<sup>7</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, 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>8</sup> "I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses.  
<sup>9</sup> Then I said, 'What are these, my lord?' The angel who talked with me said to me, 'I will show you what they are.'

<sup>10</sup> So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, 'These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.'  
<sup>11</sup> And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, 'We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.'

<sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said, 'O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which You have been angry these seventy years?'  
<sup>13</sup> And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

<sup>14</sup> So the angel who talked with me said to me, 'Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion.'  
<sup>15</sup> And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.

<sup>17</sup> Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.'"





# SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Before the Throne of God Above*

**Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart;  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there,  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of Glory and of Grace.  
One with Himself, I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God;  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997)  
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

## 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

*Elinor Jane and Annabelle Kay Colbert*

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

Do you acknowledge that although they are  
conceived and born in sin,  
and therefore are subject to condemnation,  
they both, as children of believers,  
being born within the covenant community,  
are set apart in Christ,  
and as members of His visible church,  
ought to be baptized?

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

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

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents,  
are covenanting with God to raise Elinor and Annabelle  
in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?

And do you now acknowledge that they belong to God,  
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,  
to set before them a godly example,  
to pray with and for them,  
to teach them the doctrines of the gospel  
and of our holy religion,  
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,  
to bring them 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 Brice and Erin in the Christian nurture  
of their children?

**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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*from Hebrews 4*

**P: Since we have a great High Priest  
who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,  
let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.  
For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,  
But we have one who has been tempted in every way,  
just as we are — yet without sin.  
Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help us  
in our time of need.**

## 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.*

## 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



## **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)

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

### PASTORS:

**Rev. Nate Hitchcock** *nate@ascension-pca.org*  
**Rev. Austin Clement** *austin@ascension-pca.org*

### PASTOR EMERITUS:

**Rev. Ed Volz** *volz.edw@gmail.com*

### PASTORAL INTERN:

**Philip Suh** *philipsuh@outlook.com*

### OFFICE MANAGER:

**Rina Kroes** *office@ascension-pca.org*

### ELDERS:

**Bob Miller** *bob@ascension-pca.org*  
**Chris Sledge** *chris@ascension-pca.org*  
**Theo Vander Wel** *theo@ascension-pca.org*

### DEACONS:

**Peter Contreras** *peter@ascension-pca.org*  
**Fred Wilson** *fred@ascension-pca.org*  
**Kyle Bartlett** *kyle@ascension-pca.org*  
**Mike Wheeler** *mike@ascension-pca.org*

### HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

**Monica Sledge** *cmkesledge@gmail.com*

### MEAL COORDINATOR:

**Sheila Bloedow** *s.bloedow@comcast.net*

### NURSERY COORDINATOR:

**Rebecca Wheeler** *rwheeler2022@outlook.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.