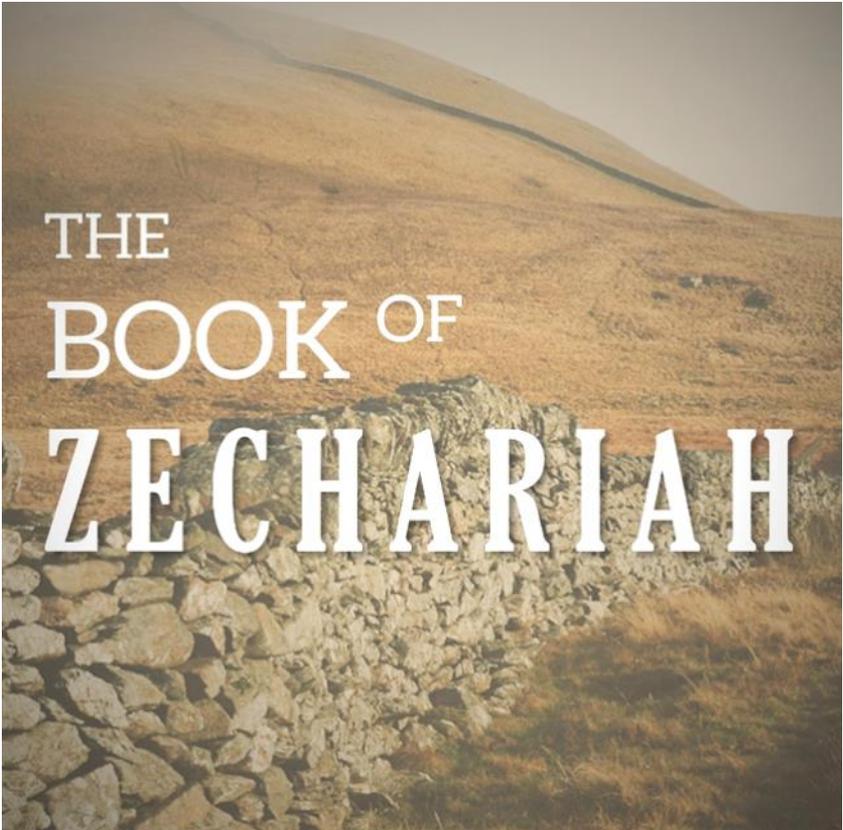




**Ascension** PCA

**September 11, 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

*Blessed be the Lord for another day of mercy,  
even though I am now weary with its toils.  
To the preserver of humankind I lift up my song of gratitude.  
The dove found no rest out of the ark,  
and therefore returned to it;  
similarly, my soul has learned more fully than ever today  
that there is no satisfaction to be found in earthly things —  
God alone can give rest to my spirit.*

*Lord, I present You my grateful acknowledgments  
for tender mercies which have been new every morning  
and fresh every evening;  
and now, I pray You, put forth Your hand  
and take Your dove into Your bosom.*

~ Charles Spurgeon

# 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

*1 Peter 1:3–4*

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In His great mercy He has given us new birth  
into a living hope through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
and into an inheritance that can never  
perish, spoil or fade —  
kept in heaven for you.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758).  
Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
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### *Tell Out, My Soul*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!**

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961);  
Music by Holly Dutton (2001);  
Words: ©1961 Hope Publishing Company  
Music: ©2001 Dutton, Holly

## **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 12:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me."

<sup>9</sup> When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

<sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

### *Psalms 25:4-11*

**P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me Your paths.**

**Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
for You are the God of my salvation;  
for You I wait all the day long.**

**Remember Your mercy, O LORD,  
and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions;  
according to Your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

**He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble His way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love  
and faithfulness,  
for those who keep His covenant  
and His testimonies.  
For Your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

## 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

*Titus 3:4–7*

M: When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
He saved us,  
not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of His mercy.  
He saved us through the washing of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
whom He poured out on us generously  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
so that, having been justified by His grace,  
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*He Was Wounded*

**He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;  
For our guilt He gave us peace,  
From our bondage gave release,  
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,  
And with His stripes our souls are healed.**

**He was numbered among transgressors,  
We did esteem Him forsaken by His God;  
As our sacrifice He died,  
That the law be satisfied,  
And all our sin, and all our sin,  
And all our sin was laid on Him.**

**We had wandered, we all had wandered  
Far from the fold of “the Shepherd of the sheep”;  
But He sought us where we were,  
On the mountains bleak and bare,  
And brought us home, and brought us home,  
And brought us safely home to God.**

**Who can number His generation?  
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?  
Millions, dead, now live again,  
Myriads follow in His train!  
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,  
Victorious Lord and coming King!**

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1920).

Music by Joseph N. Partain (1977).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2015 Nathan Partain

## 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 1:7–17*

<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.'"

## 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 Unseen: Part 2"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

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



## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Proverbs 11:28*

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,  
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Be Thou My Vision*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art —  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish Poem, translated by Mary E. Byrne (1905),  
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1912)

Traditional Irish melody, arranged by David Evans (1927)

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Rose Evangeline Clement*

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

Do you acknowledge that although she is  
conceived and born in sin,  
and therefore is subject to condemnation,  
she, 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 her, but she must, by God's grace, come to faith, repentance, and obedience when she reaches the age of discretion?

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

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

And do you now acknowledge that she belongs to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace, to set before her a godly example, to pray with and for her, to teach her the doctrines of the gospel and of our holy religion, and to strive by all the means that God has appointed, to bring her 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 Austin and Ellen 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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

## CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*Romans 5:1-8*

**P: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Through Him we have also obtained access by faith  
into this grace in which we stand,  
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance,  
and endurance produces character,  
and character produces hope,  
and hope does not put us to shame,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**For while we were still weak,  
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person —  
though perhaps for a good person  
one would dare even to die —  
but God shows His love for us  
in that while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

## 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

*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,  
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 (1982).  
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(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

## 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.