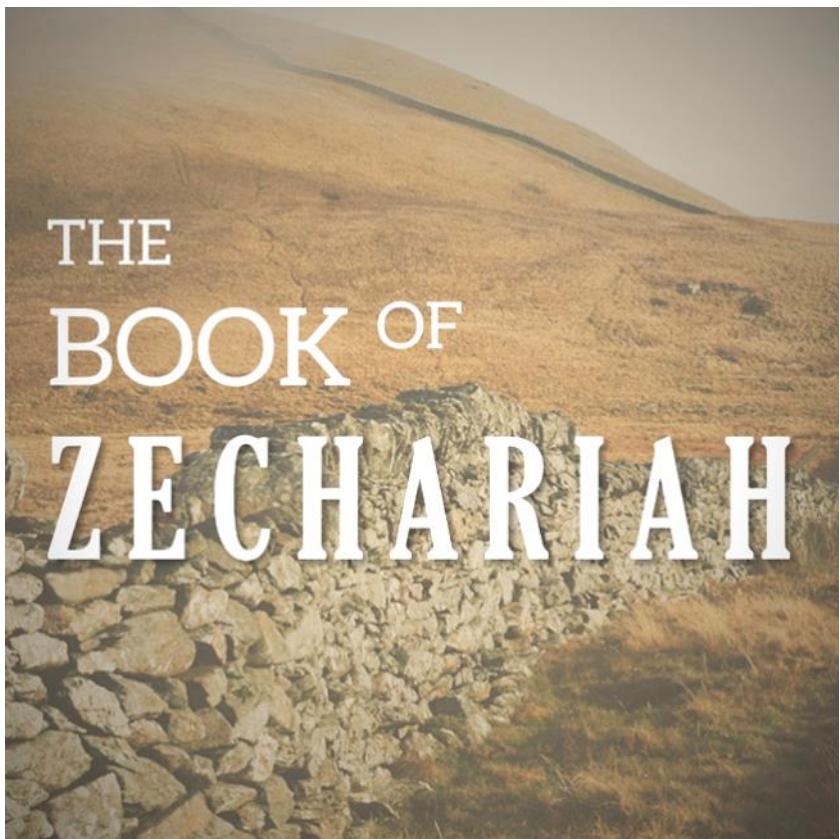




October 30, 2022



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 with One Another:**

We would love to know that you were here this morning and encourage you to fill in a *Connect Card* so that we can follow up with you, answer your questions, or pray for you. Our practice of wearing *Name Tags* is to make you feel more comfortable among us, help you to identify staff and leadership, and make it easier for you to connect with us. See our back page for contact information. We heartily invite you to join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

## **To Parents of Young Children:**

If you would like to utilize it, we have a staffed *Nursery* for children through age 3 across the hall. We encourage younger children to remain with us during the service. They are not a distraction! *Clipboards for kids* are available to encourage our children to participate in our worship together. Stop by the special Kids Table to pick up clipboards and crayons for your child. Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

## **Free Biblical Resources:**

If you don't have a copy of God's Word, please help yourself to one of the free Bibles as our gift for you to take home. You are also welcome to browse the literature and resources available to you on the Welcome Table, carts, and stands.

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

Lord Jesus, You are my strength and my song.  
My heart swells at the thought of You —  
    My King. My Ransomer. My Righteousness.  
The One in whom my life is hid,  
    and in whom I, though plagued with sin,  
        am born anew by Your blood...  
Be praised, Lord! For truth and beauty  
    and the endless glories of Your grace.

~ from "*The Dawning of the Day*"  
by Ryan Whitaker Smith & Dan Wilt

# 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

*Psalm 104:1–4, 33–34*

**P: Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

**O LORD my God, You are very great!  
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,  
covering Yourself with light as with a garment,  
stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

**M:** He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters;  
He makes the clouds His chariot;  
    He rides on the wings of the wind;  
He makes His messengers winds,  
    His ministers a flaming fire.

**P: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to Him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Glorious and Mighty*

**Majesty, Your glory is shining  
Brighter than the moon and the stars.  
Marveling, we honor and fear You  
above all gods.**

*Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens;  
Your decrees can never be changed.  
Over all the plans of the nations,  
Your judgments reign.**

*Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation;  
When You come again in the clouds.  
Every knee will bow down and worship  
the one true God.**

*Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Joyful songs we raise!  
Glorious and mighty,  
You're awesome in beauty,  
Greatly to be praised!*

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczabel, Todd Twining.  
Music by Joel Sczabel, Todd Twining.  
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise

### *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

**A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.**

**For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great;  
and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.**

**You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He,  
Lord Sabaoth, His name,  
from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.**

...

**And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.**

**The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly pow'rs,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through Him who with us sideth.**

**Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.**

Words and music by Martin Luther (1529);  
translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1853)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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 15:1-17*

*Pastoral Intern Philip Suh*

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

<sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may  
bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word  
that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides  
in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me  
and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me

you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.<sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.<sup>12</sup> "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.<sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you.<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.<sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.<sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

## CORPORATE CONFESSON OF SIN

**P: O, Lord, in Your light I behold my darkness.  
In Your purity I behold my corruption.  
My very confession of sin is the fruit of holiness.**

**O Jesus, let me gaze on You more and more  
until, in the vision of Your brightness,  
I hate the sight of my impurity;  
until, in the blaze of that glory  
which human eye has not seen,  
I fall prostrate, blinded, broken,  
to rise again in You. 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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Romans 4:4–5*

M: Now to the one who works,  
his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.  
And to the one who does not work  
but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly,  
his faith is counted as righteousness.

*Look to Jesus and know that you are forgiven!*

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Come, Ye Sinners*

**Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore.  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
full of pity joined with pow'r.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing, doubt no more.**

**Come, ye needy, come and welcome;  
God's free bounty glorify:  
True belief and true repentance,  
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money  
come to Jesus Christ and buy.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
bruised and broken by the fall.  
If you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
sinners Jesus came to call.**

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); adapted by Matthew Smith.  
Music by Matthew Smith (2000).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 detuned radio music

## 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 awaking people to new faith in Jesus.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## READING OF THE WORD

*Zechariah 6:1–15*

<sup>1</sup> Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. <sup>2</sup> The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, <sup>3</sup> the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses — all of them strong. <sup>4</sup> Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” <sup>5</sup> And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. <sup>6</sup> The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” <sup>7</sup> When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. <sup>8</sup> Then he cried to me, “Behold, those who go toward the north country have set My Spirit at rest in the north country.”

<sup>9</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>10</sup> “Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. <sup>11</sup> Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. <sup>12</sup> And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for He shall branch out from His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD.”’

<sup>13</sup> It is He who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on His throne. And there shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” <sup>14</sup> And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

<sup>15</sup> “And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

## 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

*“Behold, the Branch”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

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

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## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 33:20–21*

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
He is our help and our shield.  
For our heart is glad in Him,  
because we trust in His holy name.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*It Is Well with My Soul*

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”**

*It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control:  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And has shed His own blood for my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —  
My sin — not in part, but the whole —  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*It is well (it is well),  
With my soul (with my soul);  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so, it is well with my soul.**

*It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul; (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford (1873). Music by Philip P. Bliss (1876)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# 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

*Pastor Austin Clement*

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**P:** We proclaim that our Lord Jesus was sent  
by the Father into the world,  
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,  
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.  
We confess that He was condemned to die  
that we might be pardoned,  
and suffered death that we might live.  
We proclaim that He is risen  
to make us right with God  
and that He shall come again  
in the glory of His new creation.  
This we do now and until He comes again;  
we remember His death,  
we proclaim His resurrection,  
we await His coming in glory.

### 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

*As A Beggar I Come To Thee*

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**With empty hands,  
        without one plea.**

**As a beggar, I come to Thee.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Here come the poor,  
        the lame, the least.**

**At Thy table I find a feast.**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**Thine own dear blood  
        was shed for me!**

**Precious Savior, how can it be?**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Long I to see  
        Thy kingdom come.**

**All my days, Lord, Thy will be done.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**With lifted hearts  
        our prayer is sung:**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

**With lifted hearts  
        our prayer is sung:**

**Come, Lord Jesus, O quickly come!**

Music and words by Luke Morton (2012).

© 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

## 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

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Scripture text from

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## **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:

**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.