



Ascension PCA

November 20, 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

*"O Maker and Upholder of all things,  
Let me go to Your house with a lively hope of meeting You,  
knowing that You will come to me and give me peace.  
Let me before the broken elements,  
emblems of Your dying love,  
cry to You with broken heart for grace and forgiveness.  
I long for that blissful communion of Your people  
in Your eternal house in the perfect kingdom.  
These are they that follow the Lamb;  
May I be of their company!"*

~ "Lord's Day Morning" from the Valley of Vision (edited)

# 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 65; 66:1*

M: Praise awaits You, O God, in Zion;

**P: to You our vows will be fulfilled.**

M: O You who hear prayer, to You all men will come.

**P: When we are overwhelmed by sins,  
You forgave our transgressions.**

M: Blessed are those You choose  
and bring near to live in Your courts!

**P: We are filled with the good things of Your house,  
of Your holy temple.**

M: You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness,  
O God our Savior,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas,

**P: who formed the mountains by Your power,  
having armed Yourself with strength,**

M: who stilled the roaring seas,  
the roaring of the waves,  
and the turmoil of the nations.

**P: Those living far away fear Your wonders;  
where morning dawns and evening fades  
You call forth songs of joy.**

M: You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly.

**P: The streams of God are filled with water  
to provide the people with grain,  
for so You have ordained it.**

M: You drench its furrows and level its ridges;  
You soften it with showers and bless its crops.

**P: You crown the year with Your bounty,  
and Your carts overflow with abundance.**

M: The grasslands of the desert overflow;  
the hills are clothed with gladness.

**P: The meadows are covered with flocks  
and the valleys are mantled with grain;  
they shout for joy and sing.**

M: Shout with joy to God all the earth!

**P: Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

#### *Only You*

**You have known my every situation,  
and Your goodness sustains me, Lord;  
I will bow in humble expectation  
of Your presence in the storm.**

**Yes, there will be trial and tribulation,  
and You'll grant me breath to persevere.  
May my heart beat in pure anticipation,  
of the day You'll dry these tears.**

*Only You have set the earth on its foundation,  
Only You give orders to the dawn,  
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,  
Only You deserve our song.*

**Lord, You are the thunder to my whisper,  
yes, Your greatness knows no bounds.  
All these things too wonderful to speak of,  
fill my soul with a heavenly sound.**

*Only You have set the earth on its foundation,  
Only You give orders to the dawn,  
Only You can know the depths of every ocean,  
Only You deserve our song.*

*Only You have torn the cover off the darkness,  
You expose the evils of the night.  
Only You reveal Your glory to the humble,  
Only You are clothed in light.*

**Here I am in the valley of decision,  
I know You hear me when I call,  
I repent of my prideful disposition;  
where was I when the stars sang out?**

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall

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*Lord, for Your Glory*

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.  
We magnify Your holy name.  
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.  
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are for the glory of You.*

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.  
You have been faithful to Your own.  
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.  
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

*We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,  
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.*

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,  
Grant Cunningham (1998)

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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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*John 16:16-33*

<sup>16</sup> "A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me." <sup>17</sup> So some of His disciples said to one another, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup> So they were saying, "What does He mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." <sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me'?" <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful,

but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup> I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, "Ah, now You are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that You know all things and do not need anyone to question You; this is why we believe that You came from God." <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Daniel 9*

**P: LORD, You are righteous,  
but we are covered with shame  
because we have sinned against You.  
We have not obeyed the LORD our God  
or kept the laws He gave us  
through His servants the prophets.  
Your people have transgressed Your law  
and turned away, refusing to obey You.**

**O LORD, listen!**

**O LORD, forgive!**

**O LORD, hear and act!**

**We do not make requests of You  
because we are righteous,  
but because of Your great mercy.  
For Your sake, O my God, do not delay,  
because Your people bear your Name.  
In Jesus' Name we pray... 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.*

## THE GOOD NEWS

*Romans 5:1b, 2, 6*

M: 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 the hope of the glory of God... For while we were still weak, Christ died for the ungodly.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE & PREPARATION

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

**And can it be that I should gain  
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me?  
*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,  
so free, so infinite His grace.  
Humbled Himself, so great His love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me.  
*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.  
*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!*  
*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

# 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

*Isaiah 9:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwell in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
You have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before You  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of His burden,  
and the staff for His shoulder,  
the rod of His oppressor,  
You have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

## 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 Dawning of Joy"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*





# PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Philippians 4:18–19*

[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*My Redeemer*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,  
how my lost estate to save;  
In His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God with Him to be.**

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.*

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © Luke Morton (2005)

## 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 Ed Volz*

## 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

*The Precious Blood*

**Before the cross I kneel and see  
the measure of my sin,  
how You became a curse for me,  
though You were innocent.  
The magnitude of Your great love  
was shown in full degree,  
when righteous blood, the crimson spill,  
rained down from Calvary.**

*Oh, the precious blood  
that flowed from Mercy's side  
washed away my sin  
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood  
of Christ the crucified.  
It speaks for me before Your throne  
where I stand justified.*

**And who am I that I should know  
this treasure of such worth?  
My Savior's pure atoning blood,  
shed for the wrath I'd earned.  
For sin has stained my every deed,  
my every word and thought.  
What wondrous love that makes me one  
Your priceless blood has bought.**

*Oh, the precious blood  
that flowed from Mercy's side  
washed away my sin  
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood  
of Christ the crucified.  
It speaks for me before Your throne  
where I stand justified.*

*A crown of thorns,  
pierced hands and feet,  
a body bruised,  
and Mercy's plea ...*

*A crown of thorns,  
pierced hands and feet,  
a body bruised,  
and Mercy's plea ...*

*Oh, the precious blood  
that flowed from Mercy's side  
washed away my sin  
when Christ my Savior died.*

*Oh, the precious blood  
of Christ the crucified.  
It speaks for me before Your throne  
where I stand justified.*

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "The Precious Blood".  
Music and words by Peter Gagnon (2006).  
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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

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Scripture text from

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

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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)

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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.