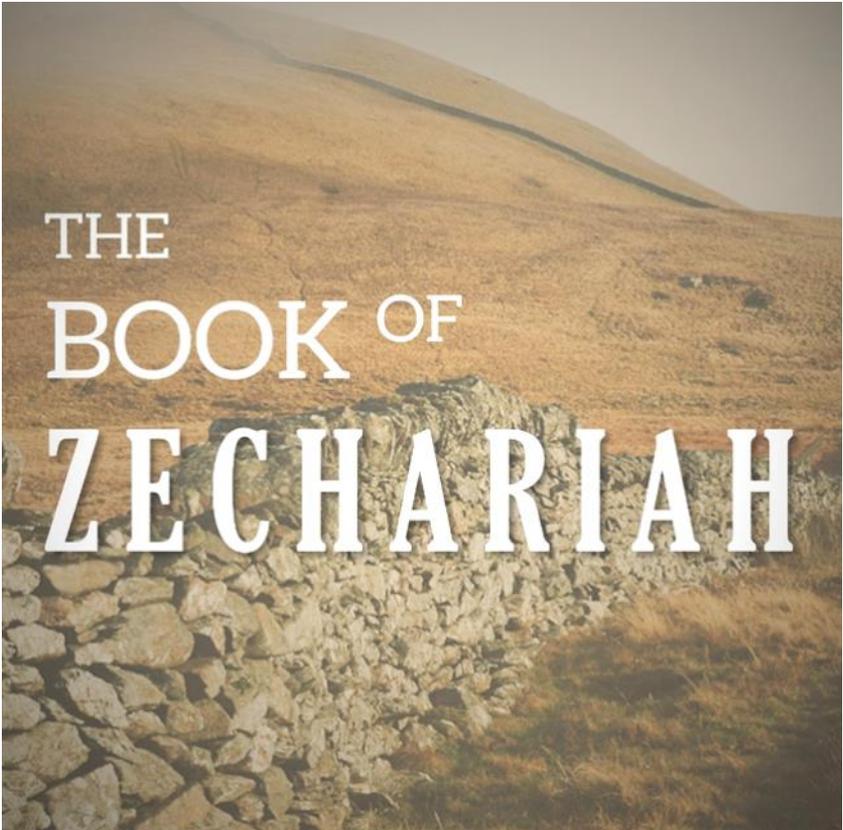




Ascension PCA

January 8, 2023



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 Father and God of all comfort,
through Your Word and Holy Spirit
grant me a firm, glad, and grateful faith.
By such faith may I easily overcome this and every other trial,
and at length realize that what Your dear Son
Jesus Christ Himself says is true:
"But take courage; I have overcome the world." Amen.*

~ Martin Luther

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

Zephaniah 3:14-17

M: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
He has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty One who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by his love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 84

**O Lord of hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.
My soul is longing, fainting,
Jehovah's courts to see;
My heart and flesh are crying,
O living God, for Thee.**

**So they from strength unwearied
go forward unto strength,
Till they appear in Zion
before the Lord at length.
O hear, Lord God of Jacob,
to me an answer yield;
The face of Thine Anointed,
behold, O God, our Shield.**

**O God of hosts, Jehovah,
how blest is everyone
Who confidence reposes
on Thee, O Lord, alone.
O Lord of Hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.**

Words from Psalm 84; *Book of Psalms* (1871); alt. Music by Henry T. Smart (1836).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)

**Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise.
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor for help on man depend.
He shall die, to dust returning,
and His purposes shall end.**

**Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing
on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created,
seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
righteousness He will maintain.**

**Food He daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning prisoner free.
Raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
and the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.**

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.**

Words from *The Trinity Psalter* (1912); alt.
Music: Gregorian chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Behold our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore ...

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

Words and music by

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)

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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 17:1-26

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, ² since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. ⁸ For I have given them the words that You gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. ²² The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent me and loved them even as You loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. ²⁶ I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

"The Personal Touch" from The Valley of Vision (modified)

P: Thou Great I AM,

**I acknowledge and confess that all things
come from You —**

**life, breath, happiness,
sight, touch, hearing,
goodness, truth, beauty.**

Give me grace to know more of my need of grace;

**Show me my sinfulness
that I may willingly confess it;**

**Reveal to me my weakness
that I may know my strength in You.**

I need healing,

Good Physician, come and manifest Your power.

I need faith;

**You who have given it me,
maintain, strengthen, increase it,
center it upon the Savior's work,
upon the majesty of the Father,
upon the operations of the Spirit.**

**Work it in me now that I may never doubt You
as the truthful, mighty, faithful God.**

**Then I can bring my heart to You
full of love, gratitude, hope, joy.**

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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

from Revelation 1:5-6

**M: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
by His blood,
He has made us to be a kingdom and priests
to serve His God and Father.**

**P: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain ...
thanks be to God!**

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
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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 9:1-17

- 1 The oracle of the word of the LORD is against the land
of Hadrach
and Damascus is its resting place.
For the LORD has an eye on mankind
and on all the tribes of Israel,
- 2 and on Hamath also, which borders on it,
Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise.
- 3 Tyre has built herself a rampart
and heaped up silver like dust,
and fine gold like the mud of the streets.
- 4 But behold, the LORD will strip her of her possessions
and strike down her power on the sea,
and she shall be devoured by fire.
- 5 Ashkelon shall see it, and be afraid;
Gaza too, and shall writhe in anguish;
Ekron also, because its hopes are confounded.
The king shall perish from Gaza;
Ashkelon shall be uninhabited;
- 6 a mixed people shall dwell in Ashdod,
and I will cut off the pride of Philistia.
- 7 I will take away its blood from its mouth,
and its abominations from between its teeth;
it too shall be a remnant for our God;
it shall be like a clan in Judah,
and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites.
- 8 Then I will encamp at My house as a guard,
so that none shall march to and fro;
no oppressor shall again march over them,
for now I see with My own eyes.
- 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is He,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and He shall speak peace to the nations;
His rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 11 As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

- 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
- 13 For I have bent Judah as My bow;
I have made Ephraim its arrow.
I will stir up your sons, O Zion,
against your sons, O Greece,
and wield you like a warrior's sword.
- 14 Then the LORD will appear over them,
and His arrow will go forth like lightning;
the LORD GOD will sound the trumpet
and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.
- 15 The LORD of hosts will protect them,
and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones,
and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine,
and be full like a bowl,
drenched like the corners of the altar.
- 16 On that day the LORD their God will save them,
as the flock of His people;
for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on His land.
- 17 For how great is His goodness, and how great His beauty!
Grain shall make the young men flourish,
and new wine the young women.

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 Promise Keeper"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

2 Corinthians 8:2-3

Out of the most severe trial, their over-flowing joy
and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.
For ... they gave as much as they were able,
and even beyond their ability.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever more be Thine.**

Words from *Münster Gesangbuch* (1677); tr. by Joseph Seiss (1873)
Music from *Schlesische Volkslieder* (1842)
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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.*

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

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

**10:00AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

Meeting Address:

8224 220th 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

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

Rev. Nate Hitchcock *nate@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.