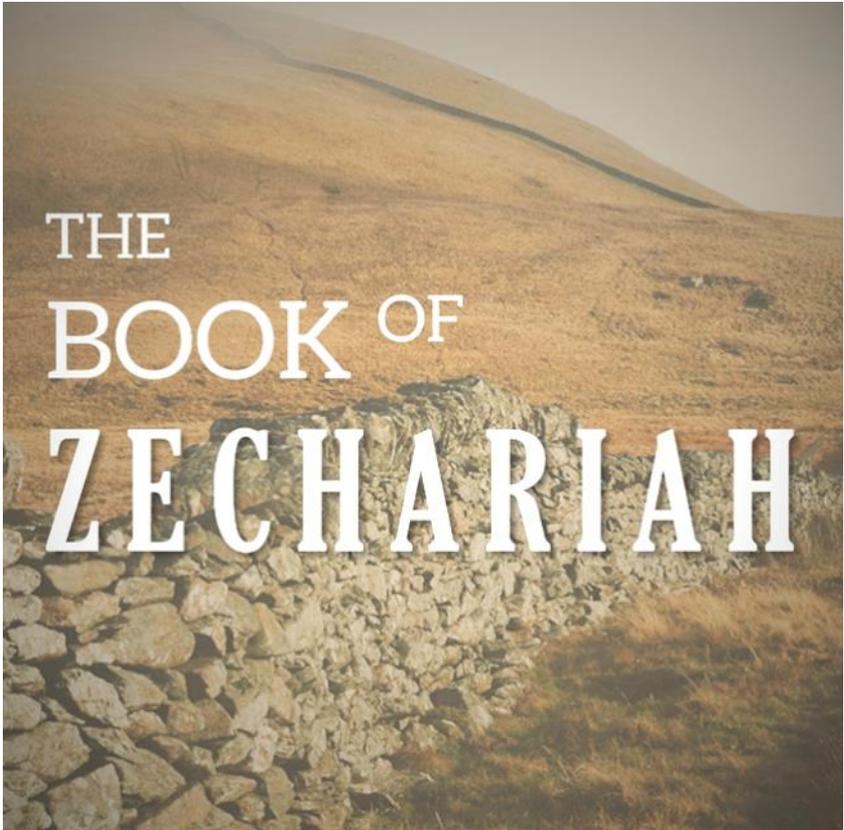




**Ascension** PCA

**January 15, 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

*I wish you a share of my feast.*

*Sweet, sweet has Jesus' love been to me...*

*But for you, hang on. Your feast is not far off.*

*You shall be filled ere you go.*

*There is as much in our Lord's pantry  
as will satisfy all his bairns [children],  
and as much wine in his cellar  
as will quench all their thirst.*

*Hunger on, for there is food in hunger for Christ.*

*Never go from Him, but fash [annoy] Him*

*(who is yet pleased with the importunity of hungry souls)*

*with a dishful of hungry desires, till He fill you.*

~ Samuel Rutherford

# 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

*Revelation 4:8-11*

M: And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings,  
are full of eyes all around and within,  
and day and night they never cease to say,

**P: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come!"**

M: And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor  
and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne,  
who lives forever and ever,  
the twenty-four elders fall down before Him  
who is seated on the throne  
and worship Him who lives forever and ever.  
They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

**P: "Worthy are You, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and power,  
for You created all things,  
and by Your will they existed and were created."**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*The God of Abra'm Praise*

**The God of Abra'm praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of Everlasting Days  
and God of love.**

**Jehovah, great I AM!  
By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred Name  
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,  
at whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys  
at His right hand.**

**I all on earth forsake,  
its wisdom, fame and pow'r;  
And Him my only portion make,  
my shield and tow'r.**

The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high:  
*"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"*  
they ever cry.  
Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!  
I join the heav'nly lays;  
All might and majesty are Thine  
and endless praise.

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

### *Is He Worthy*

Do you feel the world is broken? *(We do)*  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? *(We do)*  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
the light from getting through? *(We do)*  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? *(We do)*

Is all creation groaning? *(It is)*  
Is a new creation coming? *(It is)*  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
the light within our midst? *(It is)*  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? *(It is)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.*

*Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? (He is!)*

Does the Father truly love us? *(He does)*  
Does the Spirit move among us? *(He does)*  
And does Jesus, our Messiah,  
hold forever those He loves? *(He does)*  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? *(He does)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah  
who conquered the grave,  
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died  
to ransom the slave.*

*From ev'ry people and tribe,  
every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
to reign with the Son.*

...

***Is He worthy, is He worthy  
of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy, is He worthy,  
is He worthy of this? (He is!)***

***Is He worthy? Is He worthy?***

***He is!***

***He is!***

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).  
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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 18:1-27*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

<sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. <sup>13</sup> First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." <sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup> When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?" <sup>24</sup> Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup> One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" <sup>27</sup> Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Father in Heaven, if Your mercy had bounds,  
where would our refuge from just wrath be?  
But Your love in Christ is without measure.**

**Therefore, we present ourselves to You  
with sins of omission and commission,  
against You, our Father,  
against You, adorable Redeemer,  
against You and Your strivings, Holy Spirit,  
against the dictates of our consciences,  
against the precepts of Your Word,  
against our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Enter not into judgment with us,  
for we plead no righteousness of our own,  
but bless You that the finished work of Jesus,  
needs no addition from our doings,  
and is satisfaction for all our sins.  
In that name we plead, 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*John 10:14-15*

M: "I am the good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay My life down for the sheep."

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).

Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)

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

## *Zechariah 10:1-12*

- 1 Ask rain from the LORD  
in the season of the spring rain,  
from the LORD who makes the storm clouds,  
and He will give them showers of rain,  
to everyone the vegetation in the field.
- 2 For the household gods utter nonsense,  
and the diviners see lies;  
they tell false dreams  
and give empty consolation.  
Therefore the people wander like sheep;  
they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.
- 3 "My anger is hot against the shepherds,  
and I will punish the leaders;  
for the LORD of hosts cares for His flock, the house of Judah,  
and will make them like His majestic steed in battle.
- 4 From Him shall come the cornerstone,  
from Him the tent peg,  
from Him the battle bow,  
from Him every ruler — all of them together.
- 5 They shall be like mighty men in battle,  
trampling the foe in the mud of the streets;  
they shall fight because the LORD is with them,  
and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.
- 6 "I will strengthen the house of Judah,  
and I will save the house of Joseph.  
I will bring them back because I have compassion on them,  
and they shall be as though I had not rejected them,  
for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.
- 7 Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior,  
and their hearts shall be glad as with wine.  
Their children shall see it and be glad;  
their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD.
- 8 "I will whistle for them and gather them in,  
for I have redeemed them,  
and they shall be as many as they were before.
- 9 Though I scattered them among the nations,  
yet in far countries they shall remember Me,  
and with their children they shall live and return.
- 10 I will bring them home from the land of Egypt,  
and gather them from Assyria,  
and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon,  
till there is no room for them.





# 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 RESPONSE

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need Thy tender care.  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use Thy folds prepare:**

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.***

**We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way.  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray:**

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.***

**Thou hast promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be.  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:**

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
let us early turn to Thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
let us early turn to Thee.***

**Early let us seek Thy favor;  
early let us do Thy will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with Thy love our bosoms fill:**

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.***

Words by Dorothy Ann Thrupp (1836). Music by William B. Bradbury (1859)  
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

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*from Philippians 2*

**P: Christ Jesus, being in very nature God  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped  
but made Himself nothing  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself  
and became obedient to death —  
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place  
and gave Him the Name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### 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

*Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

**What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer;  
there is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;  
for my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine,  
I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;  
for by my side the Saviour He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
for in my need His power is displayed.**

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me;  
through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won,  
and I shall overcome.  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;  
the future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
and He was raised to overthrow the grave.**

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released,  
I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus;  
for He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me,  
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;  
all the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

Words and music by Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson.  
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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

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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 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.