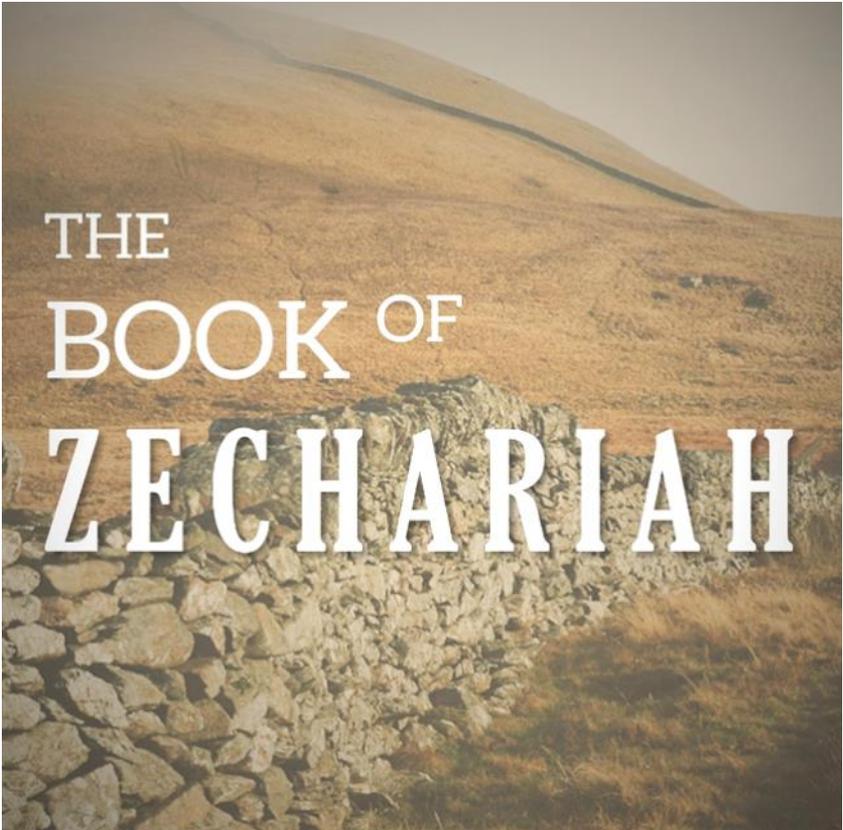




Ascension PCA

January 22, 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

*A believer longs after God: to come into His presence,
to feel His love, to feel near to Him in secret,
to feel in the crowd that He is nearer than all the creatures.*

*Ah! Dear brethren, have you ever tasted this blessedness?
There is greater rest and solace to be found in the presence of God
for one hour, than in an eternity of the presence of man.*

~ Robert Murray M'Cheyne

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 1:3-5

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, who through faith are shielded
by God's power until the coming of the salvation
that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

P: **In this we greatly rejoice!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

P: **Our Father, Who art in Heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE

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!***

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive (2018).
© 2018 Capitol CMG Genesis, Junkbox Music, Vamos Publishing, Jakedog Music

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
and crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
and crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe,
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).
Music by Oliver Holden (1793).
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

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 18:28-40

Intern Philip Suh

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world."

³⁷ Then Pilate said to Him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful God, we draw near to You in humility,
we admit our sin and repent.
Draw near to us in Your grace and hear our prayers.**

**Our words have been careless,
and our compassion has been weak.**

Lord, have mercy.

**For the times we have spoken
when we should have remained silent,
and the times we have remained silent
when we should have spoken,**

Lord, have mercy.

**For the times we have not spoken the truth,
and the times we spoke the truth without love,**

Lord, have mercy.

**For the sins that we know,
and for the sin we have forgotten,**

Lord, have mercy.

**Forgiven, grant us now the grace,
to die daily to our sin,
and to live the new life in Christ that is ours,
in whose strong 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

1 John 5:10a, 11-12

M: Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...
And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life
and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Great God

**O great God of highest heav'n,
occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,
had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life,
opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son,
gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.
Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".
© 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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 11:1–17

- ¹ Open your doors, O Lebanon,
that the fire may devour your cedars!
- ² Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen,
for the glorious trees are ruined!
Wail, oaks of Bashan,
for the thick forest has been felled!
- ³ The sound of the wail of the shepherds,
for their glory is ruined!
The sound of the roar of the lions,
for the thicket of the Jordan is ruined!
- ⁴ Thus said the LORD my God: “Become shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. ⁵ Those who buy them slaughter them and go unpunished, and those who sell them say, ‘Blessed be the LORD, I have become rich,’ and their own shepherds have no pity on them. ⁶ For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of this land, declares the LORD. Behold, I will cause each of them to fall into the hand of his neighbor, and each into the hand of his king, and they shall crush the land, and I will deliver none from their hand.”
- ⁷ So I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders. And I took two staves, one I named Favor, the other I named Union. And I tended the sheep. ⁸ In one month I destroyed the three shepherds. But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me. ⁹ So I said, “I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another.” ¹⁰ And I took my staff Favor, and I broke it, annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. ¹¹ So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep traders, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD. ¹² Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.” And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter” — the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter. ¹⁴ Then I broke my second staff Union, annulling the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.
- ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶ For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.

GIVING TO THE LORD

Luke 16:13

No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Rock of Ages

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
from Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776). Music by James Ward (1985).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1985 James Ward Music

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 Power of the Cross

**Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day.
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

**Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath —
We stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love!**

***This the pow'r of the cross;
Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross!***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music (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

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: CCL#11181050

Scripture text from

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

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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.