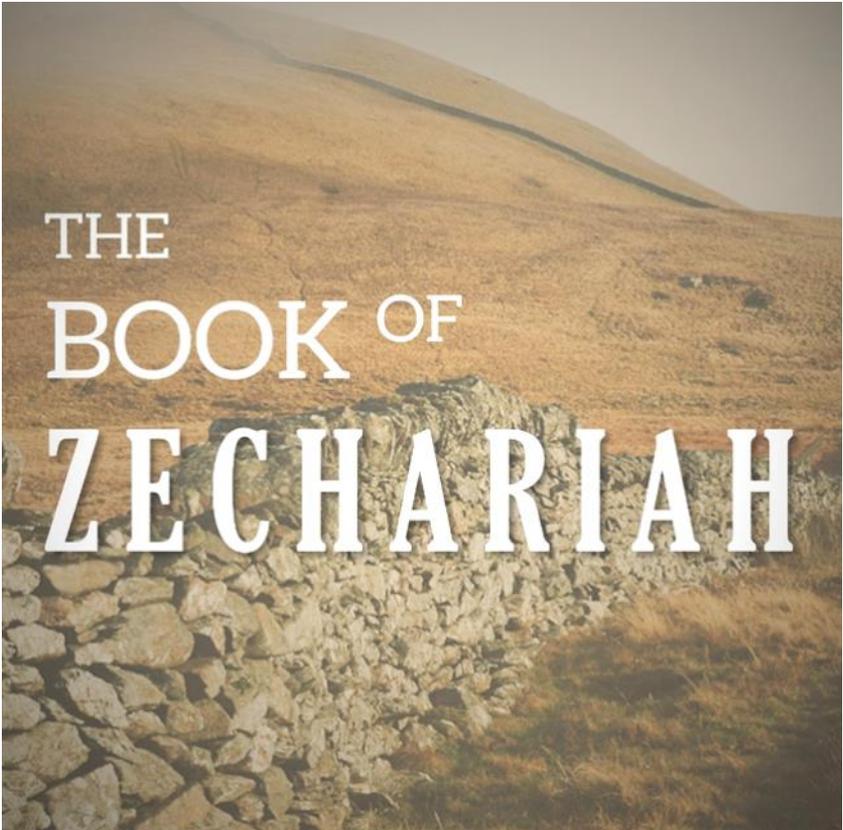




**Ascension** PCA

**February 5, 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

“Jesus must become more beautiful to your imagination, more attractive to your heart, than your idol.

That is what will replace your counterfeit gods.

If you uproot the idol and fail to ‘plant’ the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back.”

~ Tim Keller

# 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 18:1-3, 31-32*

**P: I love you, O LORD, my strength.**

**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.**

**I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies.**

**For who is God, but the LORD?**

**And who is a rock, except our God? —  
the God who equipped me with strength  
and made my way blameless.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### SONGS OF PRAISE

*Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

**Let us love and sing and wonder,  
let us praise the Savior's name!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
pitied us when enemies,  
Called us by His grace and taught us,  
gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
He has washed us with his blood,  
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice  
join and point to mercy's store;  
When thro' grace in Christ our trust is,  
justice smiles and asks no more:  
He who washed us with His blood  
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus  
of the saints enthroned on high;  
Here they trusted Him before us,  
now their praises fill the sky:  
"You have washed us with Your blood;  
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.). Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *Across the Lands*

**You're the Word of God the Father  
from before the world began;  
Every star and every planet  
has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together  
by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory;  
let the land and seas rejoice!**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,  
came to seek and save the lost,  
And exchanged the joy of heaven  
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,  
with a word You calmed the sea;  
Yet how silently You suffered,  
that the guilty may go free.**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

**With a shout You rose victorious,  
wresting vict'ry from the grave  
And ascended into heaven,  
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,  
interceding for Your own;  
From each tribe and tongue and nation  
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.  
You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
© 2002 Thankyou Music

# 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 19:23-37*

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided My garments among them,  
and for My clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed his head and gave up His spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness —

his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth — that you also may believe.<sup>36</sup> For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.”<sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: God of grace,**

**we confess that we have elevated  
the things of this world above You.**

**We have made idols of possessions and people.**

**We have permitted our schedules to come first  
and have not made the time to think on You,  
be with You, and worship You.**

**We have focused too much on ourselves  
rather than our neighbors.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**for making gods out of Your good gifts,  
and failing to worship Your name alone.**

**Please, occupy again the throne of our hearts  
and help us to live according to Your ways  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

*Isaiah 53:5–6*

M: But He was pierced for our transgressions;

He was crushed for our iniquities;

upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with His wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned — every one — to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on Him  
the iniquity of us all.

*Believe this and know that you are forgiven.*

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

## *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).  
© 2005 Sovereign Grace Worship

## 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.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### READING OF THE WORD

*Zechariah 13:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

<sup>2</sup> "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness. <sup>3</sup> And if anyone again prophesies, his father and mother who bore him will say to him, 'You shall not live, for you speak lies in the name of the LORD.' And his father and mother who bore him shall pierce him through when he prophesies.

<sup>4</sup> "On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive, <sup>5</sup> but he will say, 'I am no prophet, I am a worker of the soil, for a man sold me in my youth.' <sup>6</sup> And if one asks him, 'What are these wounds on your back?' he will say, 'The wounds I received in the house of my friends.'

7 "Awake, O sword, against My shepherd,  
against the man who stands next to Me,"  
declares the LORD of hosts.  
"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered;  
I will turn My hand against the little ones.  
8 In the whole land, declares the LORD,  
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,  
and one third shall be left alive.  
9 And I will put this third into the fire,  
and refine them as one refines silver,  
and test them as gold is tested.  
They will call upon My name,  
and I will answer them.  
I will say, 'They are My people';  
and they will say, 'The LORD is my 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

*"Our Jealous God"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

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



# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 111:1*

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*Refiner's Fire*

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold  
and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold,  
pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from within  
and make me holy.**

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from my sin,  
deep within.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

Words and music by Brian Doerksen (1990).

©1990 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music); Vineyard Songs Canada.

## 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

*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

*I Delight (Isaiah 61:10)*

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns  
his head like a priest,  
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

## 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 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

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.