



**Ascension** PCA

**April 16, 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 Maker and Upholder of all things, Your house is mine,  
but I am unworthy to meet You here.*

*When I enter, I come before You as a sinner,  
condemned by my conscience and Your Word,  
but encouraged by Your all-sufficient grace.*

*So let me come into Your house with a lively hope  
of meeting You, knowing that here  
You will come to me and give me peace.*

*I long for that blissful communion of Your people  
in Your eternal house in the perfect kingdom;  
May I be of their company!*

~ adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

# 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!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 34:1-3, 8-10*

**P: I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt His name together!  
Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!  
Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints,  
for those who fear Him have no lack!  
The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*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)

© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

### *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
'till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till Thy inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.  
More and more Thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Luke Morton (2012).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: © 2012 Walk Out of the Grave Music

*Come, Holy One*

**Hasten now, O loving Lord to us ...  
we're thirsty.**

**Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...  
we need Thee.**

*Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.*

**Lead us on, the perfect path O Lord,  
and may we ...  
... sin no more, this spotless bride, the Church,  
is Yours.**

*Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.*

*Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory ... Lord Jesus.*

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.  
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

## 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 31:15–30*

*Elder Theo Vander Wel*

- <sup>15</sup> For Thus says the LORD:  
"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more."

- 16 Thus says the LORD:  
"Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work,  
declares the LORD,  
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
- 17 There is hope for your future,  
declares the LORD,  
and your children shall come back to their own country.
- 18 I have heard Ephraim grieving,  
"You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined,  
like an untrained calf;  
bring me back that I may be restored,  
for you are the LORD my God.
- 19 For after I had turned away, I relented,  
and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh;  
I was ashamed, and I was confounded,  
because I bore the disgrace of my youth.'
- 20 Is Ephraim My dear son?  
Is he My darling child?  
For as often as I speak against him,  
I do remember him still.  
Therefore My heart yearns for him;  
I will surely have mercy on him,  
declares the LORD.
- 21 "Set up road markers for yourself;  
make yourself guideposts;  
consider well the highway,  
the road by which you went.  
Return, O virgin Israel,  
return to these your cities.
- 22 How long will you waver,  
O faithless daughter?  
For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth:  
a woman encircles a man."
- 23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Once more  
they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its cities,  
when I restore their fortunes:  
"The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness,  
O holy hill!"
- 24 And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the  
farmers and those who wander with their flocks. 25 For I will satisfy  
the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish."
- 26 At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

<sup>27</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast. <sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass that as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> In those days they shall no longer say:

"The fathers have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

<sup>30</sup> But everyone shall die for his own iniquity. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge."

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18*

**P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions;  
according to Your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

**The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.**

**Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.**

## 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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Romans 6:8-11*

**M: Now if we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we will also live with Him.  
We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,  
will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.  
For the death He died He died to sin, once for all,  
but the life He lives He lives to God.  
So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin  
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**



# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*

**What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.**

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
"Christ He lives! Christ He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
then sin and death will be destroyed,  
and we will feast in endless joy,  
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

...

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,  
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker  
©2020 Getty Music Hymns and Song, Getty Music Publishing, Jordan Kauflin Music, Love Your  
Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

## 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

*Matthew 6:5–13*

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name.  
<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,  
12 and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13 And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.”

**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**

*“Enough for Today”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

**PRAYER**

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



## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 86*

Christ has redeemed us by His blood.  
But we do good because Christ by His Spirit  
is also renewing us to be like Himself,  
so that in all our living we may show that we are thankful to God  
for all He has done for us,  
and so that He may be praised through us.  
And we do good so that we may be assured of our faith  
by its fruits,  
and so that by our godly living  
our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

**Children of the Heavenly Father,  
safely in His bosom gather.  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven,  
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
and their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.**

**More secure is no one ever,  
than the loved ones of the Savior.  
Not yon star on high abiding,  
nor the bird in home-nest hiding.**

Words by Carolina Sandell-Berg (1855); translated by Ernst W. Olson.  
Swedish folk melody.

Words: © 1925 Board of Publication Lutheran Church of America, ren. 1963 (admin. by Augsburg Fortress)  
Music: 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

*Romans 8:11, 16-17, 31-32, 35a, 37-39*

M: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**P: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.**

M: What then shall we say to these things?  
If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also with Him graciously give us all things?  
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**P: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

## 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.*

## PRAYER | MEDITATION

# 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.

## 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.

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR:

**Rev. Nate Hitchcock** *nate@ascension-pca.org*

PASTOR EMERITUS:

**Rev. Ed Volz** *volz.edw@gmail.com*

OFFICE MANAGER:

**Rina Kroes** *office@ascension-pca.org*

ELDERS:

**Brett Chase** *brett@ascension-pca.org*

**C.J. DeGroot** *cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org*

**Chris Sledge** *chris@ascension-pca.org*

**Philip Suh** *philipsuh@ascension-pca.org*

**Theo Vander Wel** *theo@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

**Kyle Bartlett** *kyle@ascension-pca.org*

**Peter Contreras** *peter@ascension-pca.org*

**Fred Wilson** *fred@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*



## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

**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*