



**Ascension** PCA

**April 30, 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

*Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be  
no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitations of Thy glory and dominion,  
world without end. Amen.*

~ John Donne

# 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

*followed by 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.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 62:5-8*

**M: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from Him.  
He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

**P: Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalm 66*

**All lands to God in joyful sounds,  
aloft your voices raise;  
sing forth the honor of His name,  
and glorious make His praise.  
Sing forth the honor of His name,  
and glorious make His praise.**

**Yes, all the earth shall worship Thee  
and unto Thee shall sing;  
and to Thy name most glorious,  
their songs of praise shall bring.  
And to Thy name most glorious,  
their songs of praise shall bring.**

**O all ye people, bless our God;  
aloud proclaim His praise,  
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,  
our feet from sliding stays.  
Who holdeth safe our soul in life,  
our feet from sliding stays.**

Words based on *Scottish Psalter* (1650), the *Book of Psalms* (1871),  
and *The Psalter* (1912).

©1994 *Trinity Psalter*, Crown & Covenant Publications

*Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
for the bliss Thy love bestows;  
For the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
and the peace that from it flows.  
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
this dull soul to rapture raise:  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,  
wretched wand'rer far astray;  
Found me lost, and kindly brought me  
from the paths of death away.  
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;  
And, the light of hope revealing,  
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me  
to that cross, new life to give;  
Held a blood-sealed pardon to me,  
bade me look to Him and live.  
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
roused me from my fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
praise the grace that whispered peace.  
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
roused me from my fatal ease;  
Praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).

Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).

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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Jeremiah 32:1-15*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

<sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup> At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah. <sup>3</sup> For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why do you prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it; <sup>4</sup> Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye. <sup>5</sup> And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him, declares the LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed?"

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>7</sup> Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' <sup>8</sup> Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

<sup>10</sup> I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. <sup>11</sup> Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.

<sup>12</sup> And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. <sup>13</sup> I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, <sup>14</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:

Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. <sup>15</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'"

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: God of love, it is Your will that we should love You with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we confess that we have failed in these things. We confess that we fall short. We confess that our affections continually turn away from You.**

**Have mercy on us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Order our lives by Your holy Word and make Your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of Your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to Your glory. 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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,  
to all who turn to God in hope,  
this is God's Word of grace:  
*In Jesus, you are accepted,  
you are forgiven, you are loved.*

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*O Help My Unbelief*

**How sad our state by nature is!  
Our sin, how deep it stains!  
And Satan binds our captive minds  
fast in his slavish chains.  
*But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,  
sounds from the sacred Word:  
"O, ye despairing sinners come,  
and trust upon the Lord."***

**My soul obeys th'almighty call,  
and runs to this relief.  
I would believe Thy promise, Lord;  
O help my unbelief!**

*To the dear fountain of Thy blood,  
incarnate God, I fly;  
Here let me wash my spotted soul,  
from crimes of deepest dye.*

**Stretch out Thine arm, victorious King,  
my reigning sins subdue;  
Drive the old dragon from his seat,  
with all his hellish crew.**

*A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,  
on Thy kind arms I fall;  
Be Thou my strength and righteousness,  
my Jesus, and my all.*

*But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,  
sounds from the sacred Word:  
"O, ye despairing sinners come,  
and trust upon the Lord."*

Words by Isaac Watts (1707–1709). Music by Justin Smith (2007).  
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### *My Glorious Hope*

**Though waves of troubles come  
and pour in like a flood,  
my soul will not despair.  
Within Your sovereign arms,  
no valley is too dark  
to keep me from Your care.  
Your presence and Your promises  
are joy and life to me.**

*Jesus, You're my glorious hope;  
ever faithful to Your own.  
You have filled my nights  
with Your sweet song of grace.  
Jesus You're my glorious hope;  
my glorious hope.*

**When condemnations rise,  
when failures fill my eyes,  
remind me once again:  
That my sufficiency  
is found upon the tree  
that bought my righteousness.  
The depth of Your unchanging love,  
displayed on Calvary.**



***Jesus, You're my glorious hope;  
ever faithful to Your own.  
You have filled my nights  
with Your sweet song of grace.  
Jesus You're my glorious hope;  
my glorious hope.***

Music and words by Steve and Vicki Cook (2003).  
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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

M: Open our eyes, O God:

**P: that we may behold wondrous things out of Your law.**

M: Open our ears, O God:

**P: that we may hear what You will speak to those who turn their hearts to You.**

M: Open our minds, O God:

**P: that we may understand what it means to revere You and to learn of Your ways.**

M: Open our hearts, O God:

**P: that we may grasp the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ.**

M: Open our mouths, O God:

**P: that we may proclaim the mystery of the gospel and speak of it boldly.**

**In Jesus we pray, Amen.**

## 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.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,  
<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> 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

*“Life is War”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# GIVING TO THE LORD

*1 John 2:15,17*

Do not love the world or the things in the world.  
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him...  
And the world is passing away along with its desires,  
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

# SONG OF RESPONSE

*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*

**What can wash away my sin?  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***  
**What can make me whole again?  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

*Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

**For my cleansing this I see:  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***  
**For my pardon this my plea:  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

*Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

**This is all my hope and peace:  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***  
**This is all my righteousness:  
*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

*Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Words and music by Robert Lowry (1876).  
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

*The Nicene Creed*

**P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;  
we acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. 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



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Scripture text from

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

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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.

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

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## 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

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