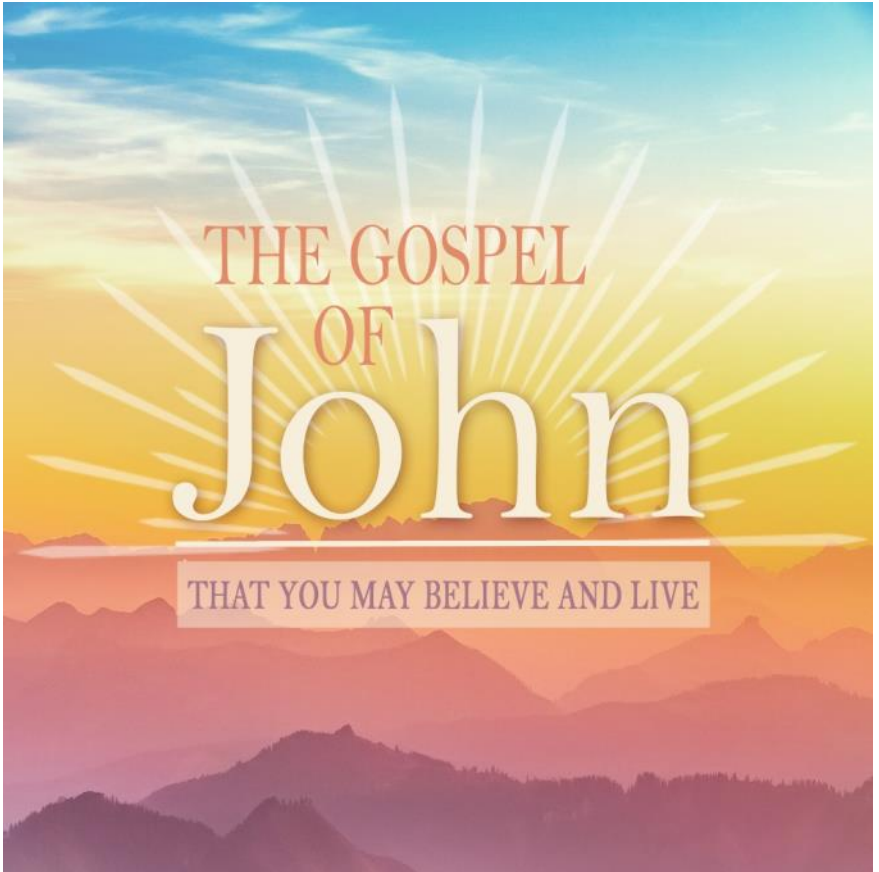




Ascension PCA

June 4, 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

*Grant that I may hear Your voice in the morning,
for my hope is in You.
Show me the way in which I should walk,
for I lift my soul to You.
Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I have fled to You.
Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God.
Let Your good Spirit lead me in the right way. Amen.*

~ John Calvin

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

from 1 Chronicles 16

M: Give thanks to the LORD; call on His name;
make known among the nations what He has done!
Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wonderful acts!
Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

SONGS OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him! Alleluia!**

**Thou, burning sun with golden beam,
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All the redeemed washed by His blood,
Come and rejoice in His great love,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin,
Case all your burdens now on Him,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**He shall return in pow'r to reign,
Heaven and earth will join to say,
 O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
 *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Original words (v. 1–2) by St. Francis of Assisi,
translated by William Henry Draper (1926).
Additional words (v. 3–4) by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.
16th Century German tune, adapted by Jonathan Baird and Ryan Baird.
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There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'erald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

**Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.**

**All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.**

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty.
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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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 34:1-7

Elder Brett Chase

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all of its cities: ² "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. ³ You shall not escape from his hand but shall surely be captured and delivered into his hand. You shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face. And you shall go to Babylon.' ⁴ Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the LORD concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword. ⁵ You shall die in peace. And as spices were burned for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so people shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have spoken the word, declares the LORD."

⁶ Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem, ⁷ when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and Azekah, for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

based on the Ten Commandments

M: O LORD, our God who brought His people out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery
and by Christ delivered us from sin,
You have been faithful to keep all the promises
of Your covenant.

**P: But we, O LORD, have been a stiff-necked people
who love unfaithfulness.**

**We have loved other gods before You
and become their servants.**

**We have not worshipped You in spirit and in truth,
and so we have mocked Your glory in heaven.**

**We have used Your name in vain
and profaned Your reputation on earth.**

**We have desecrated Your Sabbath
because we have not trusted You to give us rest.**

**We have not honored our fathers and mothers,
and so we have proved ourselves rebels.**

**We have hated our neighbors
and murdered them in our hearts.**

**We have made adulterers of ourselves
in the lust of our eyes or in the deeds of our flesh.**

**We have stolen honor and wealth and privileges
that are not ours.**

**We have lied and falsely accused
for we love gossip more than truth.**

**We have coveted blessings You wisely and righteously
gave to others.**

O LORD, have mercy on us.

In Jesus' 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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Romans 3:22; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21

M: Righteousness from God comes through
faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

**P: By faith I have a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.**

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
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

John 1:19–34

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not
the Christ."²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered,
"No."²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give
an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³ I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of 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

"The Voice"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: _____

GIVING TO THE LORD

Today is our monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.

O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is Your Name. Bless all we offer — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — that through us Your grace and favor may be known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

I Come By the Blood

**You are the perfect and righteous God
Whose presence bears no sin;
You bid me come to Your holy place;
How can I enter in,
when Your presence bears no sin?
Through Him who poured out His life for me,
the atoning Lamb of God,
Through Him and His work alone,
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

**You are the high and exalted King,
the One the angels fear;
So far above me in every way,
Lord, how can I draw near
to the One the angels fear?
Through Him who laid down His life for me,
and ascended to Your side,
Through Him, through Jesus alone
I boldly come.**

*I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.*

***I come by the blood, I come by the cross,
Where Your mercy flows from hands pierced for me.
For I dare not stand on my righteousness,
My every hope rests on what Christ has done,
and I come by the blood.***

Words and music by Steve & Vikki Cook (1994).
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GOD 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

**P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus
was sent by the Father into the world,
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**

**We confess that He was condemned to die
that we might be pardoned,
and suffered death that we might live.**

**We proclaim that He is risen
to make us right with God
and that He shall come again
in the glory of His new creation.**

**This we do now and until He comes again;
we remember His death,
we proclaim His resurrection,
we await His coming in glory.**

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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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*

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 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*