



Ascension PCA

July 2, 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 God, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee
such good things as pass man's understanding,
pour into our hearts such love toward Thee,
that we, loving Thee above all things,
may obtain Thy promises,
which exceed all that we can desire,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

~ The Book of Common Prayer

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

Psalms 67:1-3

**P: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us,
that Your way may be known on earth,
Your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Lead On, O King Eternal

**Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.**

**Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.**

**Lead on, O King eternal,
'til sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy,
the heav'nly kingdom comes.**

**Lead on, O King eternal,
we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er Thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!**

Words by Ernest W. Shurtleff (1888). Music by Henry T. Smart (1836).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 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

Ephesians 4:17-32

Elder C.J. DeGroot

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ! — ²¹ assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God,

**You are more immense than we can imagine
You cannot be encircled by our human minds
You are unlimited, vast and boundless.**

Yet we have sought to hide from You.

**We have acted as if You did not see,
We have sinned, assuming You would not notice.**

**We have also failed to trust in Your abiding presence,
becoming anxious, as if You had left us alone,
fearful, though You promised to be with us always.**

Father, we have sinned.

**Forgive us we pray, through the work of Your Son,
and renew our minds and our spirits,
through the work of Your Spirit. 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

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy,
He has caused us to be born again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
precious Redeemer, and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
rescue the souls of men?
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace our
hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

**Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace our
hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.
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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

READING OF THE WORD

Psalm 68:1–20, 32–35

- 1 After God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered;
and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!
- 2 As smoke is driven away, so You shall drive them away;
as wax melts before fire,
so the wicked shall perish before God!
- 3 But the righteous shall be glad;
they shall exult before God;
they shall be jubilant with joy!
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name;
lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts;
His name is the LORD;
exult before Him!
- 5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in His holy habitation.
- 6 God settles the solitary in a home;
He leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.
- 7 O God, when You went out before Your people,
when You marched through the wilderness,
- 8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.
- 9 Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad;
You restored Your inheritance as it languished;
- 10 Your flock found a dwelling in it;
in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.

Selah

11 The LORD gives the word;
 the women who announce the news are a great host:
 12 “The kings of the armies — they flee, they flee!”
 The women at home divide the spoil —
 13 though you men lie among the sheepfolds —
 the wings of a dove covered with silver,
 its pinions with shimmering gold.
 14 When the Almighty scatters kings there,
 let snow fall on Zalmon.
 15 O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan;
 O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!
 16 Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain,
 at the mount that God desired for His abode,
 yes, where the LORD will dwell forever?
 17 The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,
 thousands upon thousands;
 the LORD is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.
 18 You ascended on high,
 leading a host of captives in Your train
 and receiving gifts among men,
 even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.
 19 Blessed be the LORD,
 who daily bears us up;
 God is our salvation. *Selah*
 20 Our God is a God of salvation,
 and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.
 21 O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;
 sing praises to the LORD, *Selah*
 22 to Him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
 behold, He sends out His voice, His mighty voice.
 23 Ascribe power to God,
 whose majesty is over Israel,
 and whose power is in the skies.
 24 Awesome is God from His sanctuary;
 the God of Israel — He is the one who gives power
 and strength to His people.
 Blessed be 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.**

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Unbelievable

**Come and see the inconceivable
and believe the unbelievable:
God has come to dwell with us.
Begotten Son born into Adam's earth,
Promised One fulfilling ancient words,
God has come to dwell with us.
*Who could ever know the depths
of the myst'ry of Your grace?
Though our minds can't take it in,
Lord, our hearts are filled with praise.***

**He will heal the unhealable,
He will save the unsavable;
God has come to dwell with us.
Heaven's joy will drink our bitter cup,
emptied out as He is lifted up;
God has come to dwell with us.
*Who could ever know the depths
of the myst'ry of Your grace?
Though our minds can't take it in,
Lord, our hearts are filled with praise.***

**Lord, we're lost in overwhelming awe
at the thought of such amazing love;
God has come, God has come,
God has come to dwell with us.
God has come, God has come,
God has come to dwell with us.**

Words and music by Steve and Vikki Cook.
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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

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

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
unbar the way to heaven's crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
when will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
we grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh come, lead us, with mighty hand
through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
ever to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore,
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.
forever and forever more.**

Words by Friedrich von Spee (1622); translated by Martin L. Seltz (1969).
Music by Nathan Partain (2003).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2003 UBP: Partain, Nathan.

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*

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball *dave@daveball.net*



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*