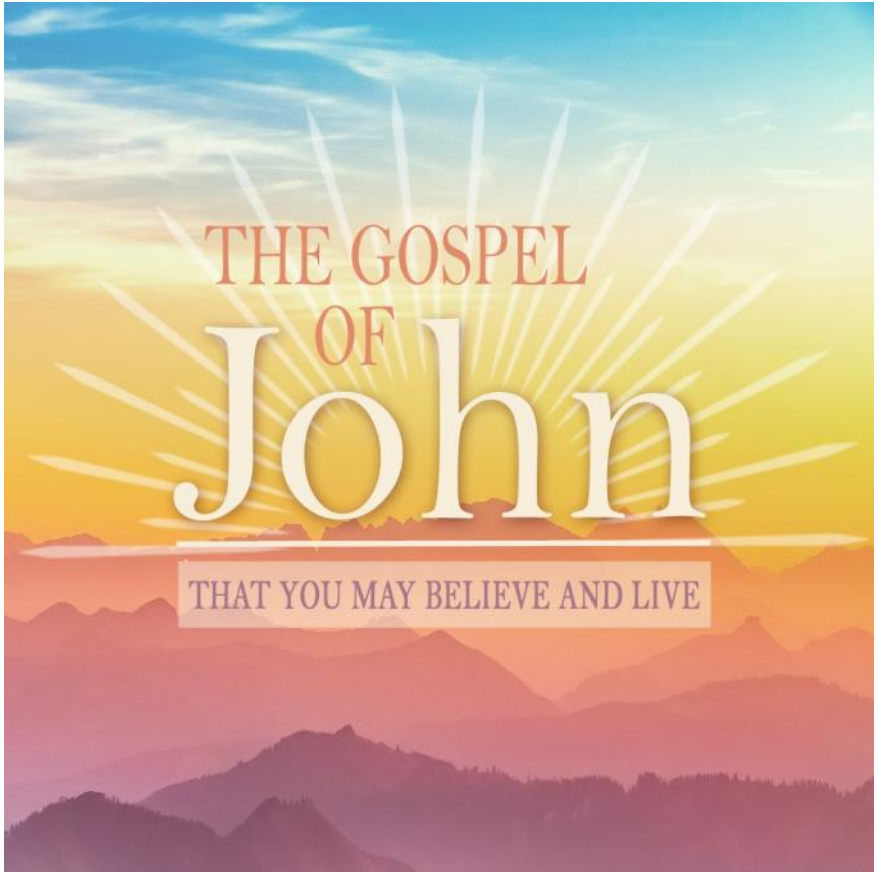




Ascension PCA

August 6, 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

The fuel of worship is a true vision of the greatness of God;
the fire that makes the fuel burn white hot
is the quickening of the Holy Spirit;
the furnace made alive and warm by the flame of truth
is our renewed spirit;
and the resulting heat of our affections is powerful worship,
pushing its way out in confessions, longings, acclamations, tears,
songs, shouts, bowed heads, lifted hands, and obedient lives.

*Father, grant to us Your Spirit, that we might truly see You,
that we might long for You from renewed hearts,
all to the praise of Your glory and grace!*

~ John Piper

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

1 Kings 8:23, 56-58

- M: O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like You
in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for Your servants
who walk before You with all their heart.
Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel
according to all that He promised;
not one word has failed of all His good promise,
which He spoke through His servant Moses.
- P: The LORD our God be with us,
as He was with our ancestors;
may He not leave us or abandon us,
but incline our hearts to Him,
to walk in all His ways,
and to keep His commandments,
His statutes, and His ordinances,
which He commanded our ancestors.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is
thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea,
so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health and with
loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief
spreading His wings to o'ershade thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him!**

Words by Joachim Neander (1680); tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1863).
Music from *Straslund Gesangbuch* (1665).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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'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.*

**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.
© 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.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 49

Elder CJ DeGroot

- 1 Hear this, all peoples!
Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
2 both low and high,
rich and poor together!
3 My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
4 I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.
5 Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,
6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?
7 Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
8 for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice,
9 that he should live on forever
and never see the pit.
10 For he sees that even the wise die;
the fool and the stupid alike must perish
and leave their wealth to others.
11 Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they called lands by their own names.
12 Man in his pomp will not remain;
he is like the beasts that perish.
13 This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*
14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd,
and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.
Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for He will receive me. *Selah*

- 16 Be not afraid when a man becomes rich,
when the glory of his house increases.
17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away;
his glory will not go down after him.
18 For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed
— and though you get praise when you do well for yourself —
19 his soul will go to the generation of his fathers,
who will never again see light.
20 Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts
that perish.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God, we have sinned against you, O Lord.

**And yet, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses,
so also do we acknowledge You to be a merciful God
to all who turn to You.**

**So we humbly ask You, for the sake of Christ Your Son,
to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses.
Forgive the sins of our youth,
and the sins of our old age.**

**By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts,
so that, not only the actions of our life,
but also the words of our mouths,
and the smallest thoughts of our minds,
may be guided and governed by You.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. 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 GOOD NEWS

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth
that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Great God

**O great God of highest heav'n,
occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
make me Yours forevermore.**

**I was blinded by my sin,
had no ears to hear Your voice,
did not know Your love within,
had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then your Spirit gave me life,
opened up Your Word to me
through the gospel of Your Son,
gave me endless hope and peace.**

**Help me now to live a life
that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
glorify Your name through me.**

Words and music by Bob Kauflin.

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "Regeneration".

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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

READING OF THE WORD

John 4:19–45

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but You say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither

on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.²² You worship what you do not know; We worship what We know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

²⁷ Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to Him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.’³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of His word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

⁴³ After the two days He departed for Galilee.⁴⁴ (For Jesus Himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in His own hometown.)⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him, having seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

GIVING TO THE LORD

from Romans 12:1

I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual worship.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Let Your Kingdom Come

**Your glorious cause, O God,
engages our hearts.**

**May Jesus Christ be known
wherever we are.**

**We ask not for ourselves,
but for Your renown.**

The cross has saved us so we pray:

"Your kingdom come!"

*Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done,
so that everyone might know Your Name.*

*Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
till Your sovereign work on earth is done.*

Let Your kingdom come!

**Give us Your strength, O God,
and courage to speak.**

**Perform Your wondrous deeds
through those who are weak.**

**Lord, use us as You want,
whatever the test;**

**By grace we'll preach Your Gospel 'til
our dying breath.**

*Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done,
so that everyone might know Your Name.*

*Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
till Your sovereign work on earth is done.*

Let Your kingdom come!

Words and music by Bob Kauflin

Based on *The Valley of Vision* prayer "God's Cause"

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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

adapted from Philippians 2

M: What encouragement do you have from being united with Christ?
What comfort from His love and what fellowship with His Spirit?
What tenderness and compassion have you known from Him?

**P: That Christ, being in very nature God
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,
but made Himself nothing
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
and became obedient to death —
even death on a cross!**

**Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the Name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow
in heaven and on earth and under the earth
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
let me to Thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till life's storm is past;
safe into the haven guide;
receive my soul at last!**

**Other refuge have I none;
I helpless hang on Thee;
leave, oh, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
all help from Thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
in the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, are all I want;
here more than all I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.**

**Just and holy is Thy name,
I'm all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am;
Thou full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
let me take of Thee;
spring Thou up within my heart,
for all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: 2000 Cardiphonia Music .

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

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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*