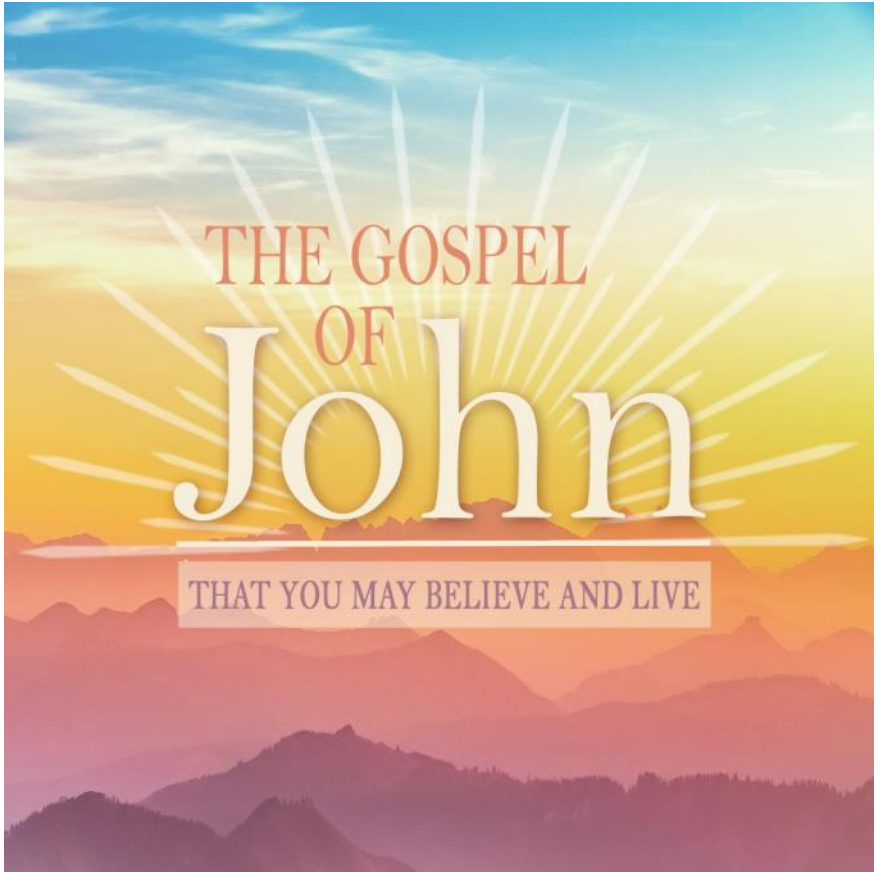




**Ascension** PCA

**September 3, 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

In Thee, O LORD, I put my trust,  
I call upon Thy Name;  
O save me in Thy righteousness,  
nor let me suffer shame.

Bow down Thine ear to my request,  
and swift deliverance send;  
be Thou to me a rock of strength,  
a fortress to defend.

~ J.C. Lowry

# 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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26*

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

M: Give thanks to the God of gods,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

M: Give thanks to the LORD of lords,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: to Him who alone does great wonders,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: to Him who by understanding made the heavens,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: to Him who spread out the earth above the waters,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: to Him who made the great lights,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: the sun to rule over the day,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: the moon and stars to rule over the night,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: It is He who remembered us in our low estate,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: and rescued us from our foes,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever;**

M: He who gives food to all flesh,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

M: Give thanks to the God of heaven,

**P: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

# PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758). Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

*10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.***

**The sun comes up,  
it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass,  
and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.***

**You're rich in love,  
and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness,  
I will keep on singing:  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.***

**And on that day  
when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing  
Your praise unending:  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.  
I'll worship Your holy name.***

Words and music by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin  
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worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

# 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 53*

*Elder Brett Chase*

- 1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;  
there is none who does good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven  
on the children of man  
to see if there are any who understand,  
who seek after God.
- 3 They have all fallen away;  
together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,  
not even one.
- 4 Have those who work evil no knowledge,  
who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
and do not call upon God?
- 5 There they are, in great terror,  
where there is no terror!  
For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you;  
you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When God restores the fortunes of His people,  
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Merciful Father,  
You have shown us the way of life  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
We confess our slowness to learn of Him,  
our failure to follow Him,  
and our reluctance to bear the cross.  
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

**We confess the poverty of our worship,  
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,  
our hesitating witness for Christ,  
and our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.  
Through Jesus we plead. 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

*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

*Come, Ye Sinners*

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity, love, and power.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.*

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**



***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,  
nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); alt. Music by Jonathan Eck (2023).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2023 Jonathan Eck

## **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 5:19-29*

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will. <sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. <sup>27</sup> And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

## 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

*"Like Father, Like Son"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER



# GIVING TO THE LORD

*Colossians 3:1-2*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*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 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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*Hebrews 10:19-24*

- M:** ... Since we have confidence  
to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,  
by the new and living way that He opened for us  
through the curtain, that is, through His flesh,  
and since we have a great high priest  
over the house of God ...
- P:** **Let us draw near with a true heart  
in full assurance of faith,  
with our hearts sprinkled clean  
from an evil conscience  
and our bodies washed with pure water.  
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope  
without wavering  
for He who promised is faithful.  
And let us consider how to stir up one another  
to love and good works.**

## 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

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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 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*