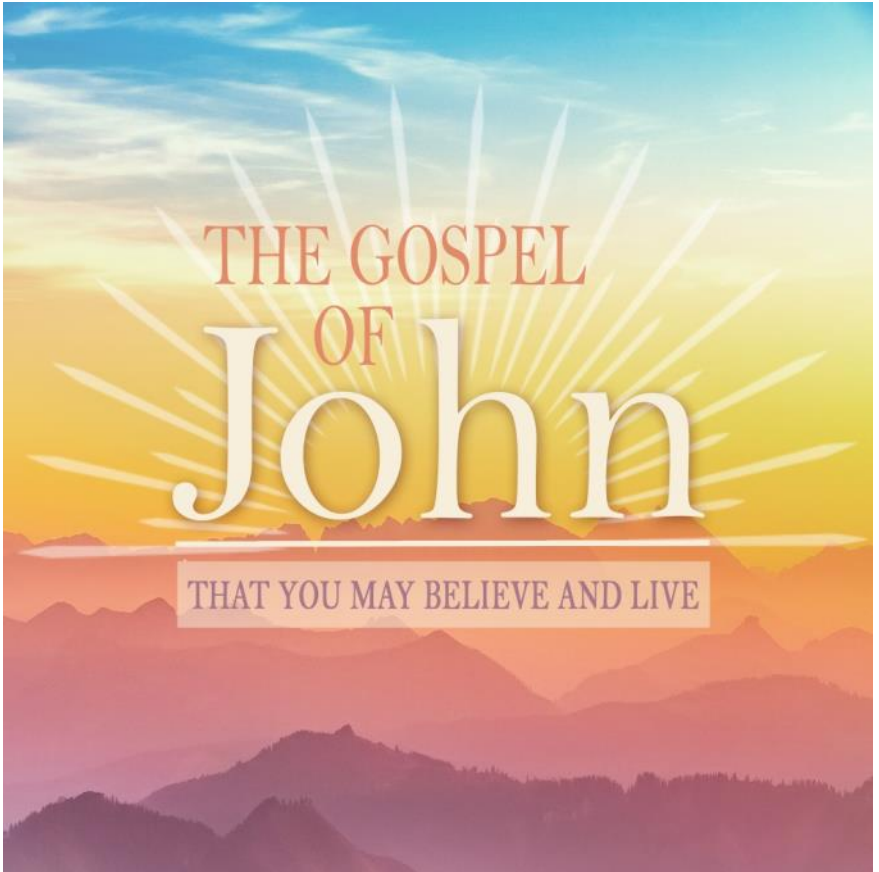




Ascension PCA

October 22, 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

As the deer panteth for the water
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.
You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

~ Martin J. Nystrom

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

from Revelation 19:5-7 and Psalm 63:1

M: Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, both small and great!

P: **Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!**

**O God, You are our God; earnestly we seek You;
Our souls thirst for You; our flesh faints for You,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

To God Be the Glory

**To God be the glory — great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate so we may go in!**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

***O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood —
to every believer the promise of God.**

**The vilest offender who truly believes
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives!**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

***O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

***O come to the Father through Jesus, the Son,
and give Him the glory — great things He has done!***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1875).

Music by William Howard Doane (1875).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

The God of Abra'm Praise

**The God of Abra'm praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days
and God of love.**

Jehovah, great I AM!

**By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name
forever blest.**

**The God of Abra'm praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at His right hand.**

**I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r;
and Him my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.**

**The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high:
"Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.**

**Hail, Abra'm's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays;
all might and majesty are Thine
and endless praise.**

Words by Thomas Olivers (1770). Music by Nathan Partain (2003)

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2003 Partain, Nathan

Oh, How Good It Is

**Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruit of His presence here among us.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is on this journey we share,
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
when we offer the blessing of belonging.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

**Oh, how good it is to embrace His command
to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one, we all share in the love
of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.**

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;
and with one heart we'll live out His Word.
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for He dwells in the presence of His people.***

Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes,
Stuart Townend

© 2012 Getty Music Publishing, Parakeet Boots Music, Townend Songs

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 60

Elder Chris Sledge

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

- 1 O God, You have rejected us, broken our defenses;
You have been angry; oh, restore us.
- 2 You have made the land to quake; You have torn it open;
repair its breaches, for it totters.
- 3 You have made Your people see hard things;
You have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.
- 4 You have set up a banner for those who fear You,
that they may flee to it from the bow. *Selah*
- 5 That Your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by Your right hand and answer us!
- 6 God has spoken in His holiness:
"With exultation I will divide up Shechem
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.
- 7 Gilead is Mine; Manasseh is Mine;
Ephraim is My helmet;
Judah is My scepter.
- 8 Moab is My washbasin;
upon Edom I cast my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph."
- 9 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 10 Have You not rejected us, O God?
You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.
- 11 Oh, grant us help against the foe,
for vain is the salvation of man!
- 12 With God we shall do valiantly;
it is He who will tread down our foes.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Father, we humble ourselves
under Your mighty hand.**

**We confess to You that too often
pride has been our clothing rather than humility.
We confess that we have taken our concerns
upon ourselves
rather than entrusting them to You.**

...

**We have not been spiritually vigilant
but instead have been led astray
by the enemy's distractions and lies.**

**Forgive us, restore us, confirm us, strengthen us,
and establish us that we might stand firm in Your grace.
In the name of Jesus 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.*

THE GOOD NEWS

1 John 5:10a, 11-12

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...
And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life
and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Come, Ye Sinners

**Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
full of pity joined with pow'r.
He is able, He is able;
He is willing, doubt no more.**

**Come, ye needy, come and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify:
True belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money
come to Jesus Christ and buy.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
bruised and broken by the fall.
If you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
sinners Jesus came to call.**

Words by Joseph Hart (1759, alt.); adapted by Matthew Smith.
Music by Matthew Smith (2000).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 detuned radio music
Page 8

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

John 7:37-52

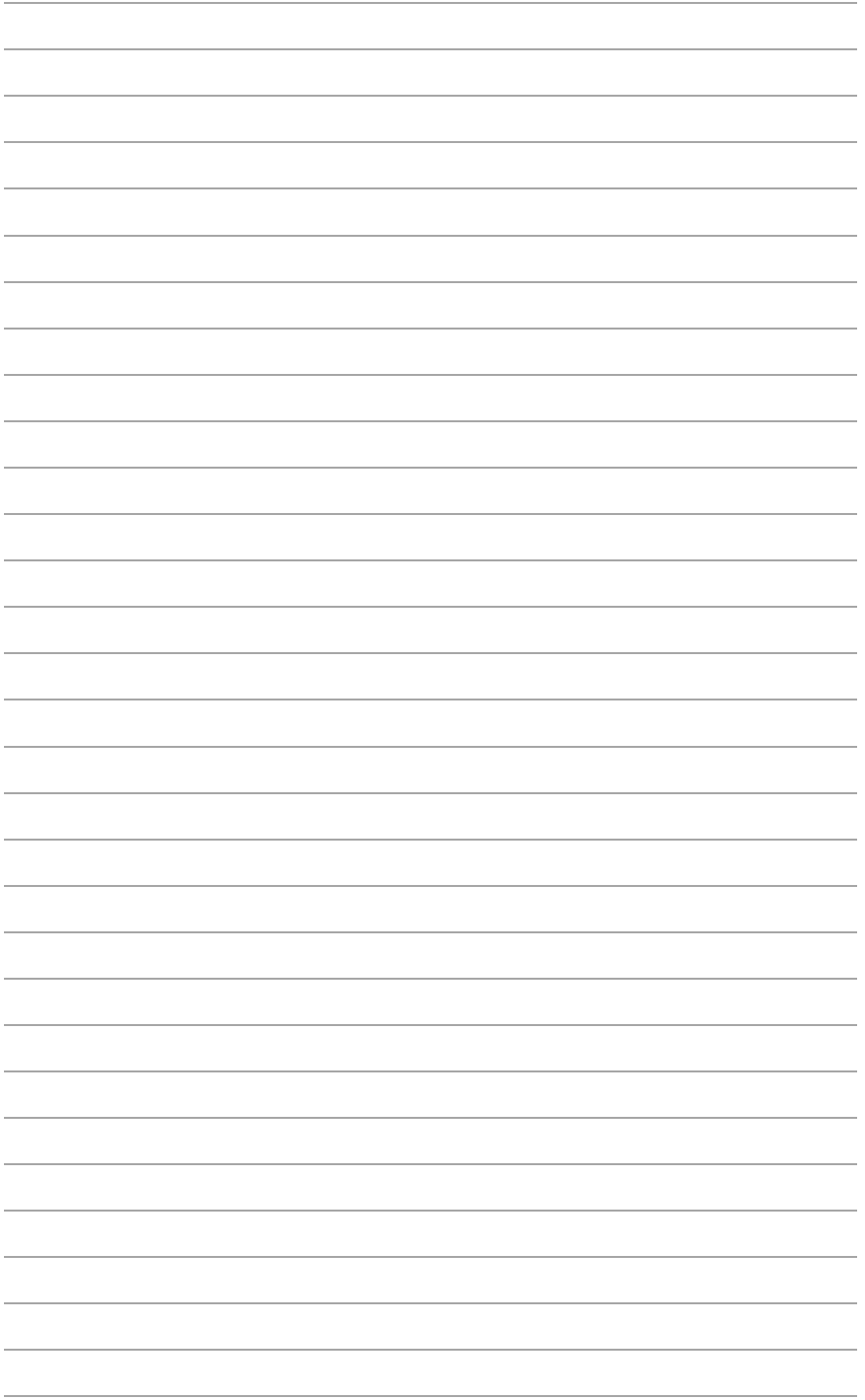
³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?" ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over Him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" ⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived?" ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

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

Psalm 111:1

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright,
in the congregation.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfil Thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to Thy cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress;
helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776);
altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815).
Music by Thomas Hastings (1830).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707, 1709).
Gregorian Chant; arranged by Lowell Mason (1824)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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



Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

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

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



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*