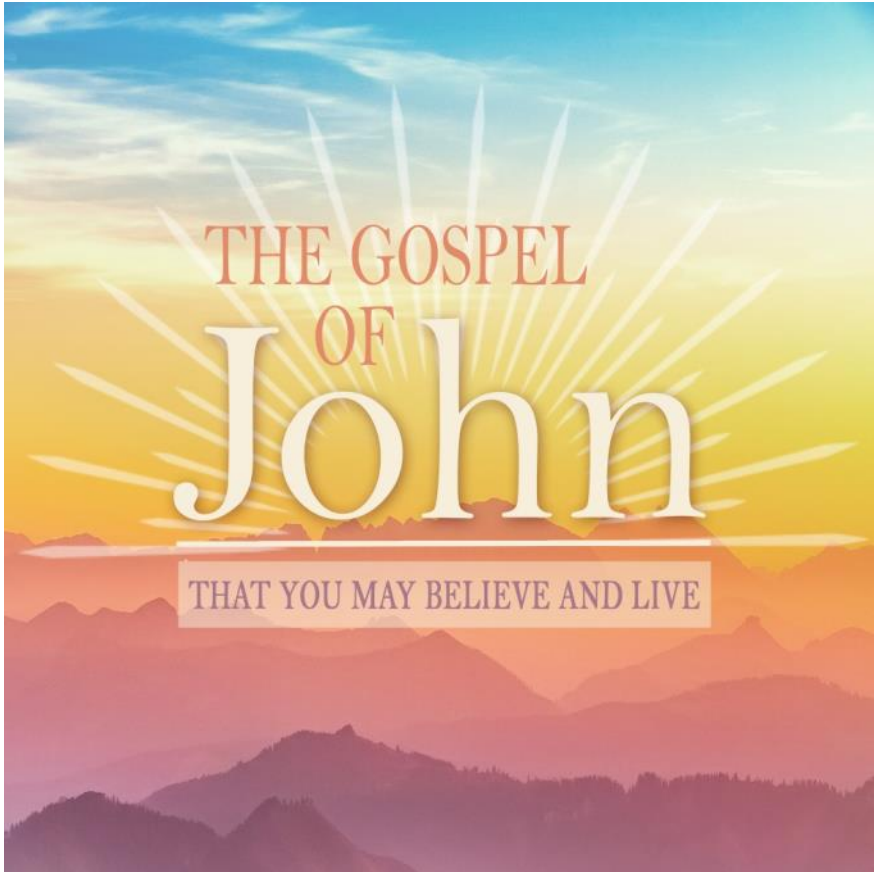




**Ascension** PCA

**November 19, 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

We come as children to our Father's table and to sit there with Jesus Christ, our elder brother. Now a father does not love to have his child sitting in a sullen and dogged way at his table or to be crying, but would rather have the child sitting in comfort with a holy cheerfulness, with a holy freedom of spirit, not in a sullen way, but as a child in the presence of his father, and not as a servant with the master.

~ Jeremiah Burroughs

# 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

*Jeremiah 10:6-7*

M: There is none like You, O LORD;  
You are great, and Your name is great in might.  
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?  
For this is Your due;  
for among all the wise ones of the nations  
and in all their kingdoms  
there is none like You.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Our Great God*

**Eternal God, unchanging,  
mysterious and unknown;  
Your boundless love, unfailing,  
in grace and mercy shown.  
Bright seraphim in endless flight  
around Your glorious throne;  
They raise their voices day and night  
in praise to You alone.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

**Lord, we are weak and frail,  
helpless in the storm.  
Surround us with Your angels,  
hold us in Your arms.  
Our cold and ruthless enemy,  
his pleasure is our harm.  
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee  
before our Sovereign God.**

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Let every creature in the sea  
and every flying bird,  
Let every mountain, every field,  
and valley of the earth;  
Let all the moons and all the stars  
in all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God  
who rules them by His Word.

***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***  
***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***  
***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***  
***Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!***

Words and music by Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell.  
© 2002 New Spring, DeJamesolo Music, Curb Word Music.  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Come, People of the Risen King*

**Come, people of the risen King,  
who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
to the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
we will lift our eyes to Him,  
where steady arms of mercy reach  
to gather children in.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!***  
***One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun,  
and those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
and those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
and His mercies never cease,  
but follow us through all our days  
with the certain hope of peace.**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!***  
***One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

**Come, young and old from every land,  
men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
find the riches of His grace.**

**Over all the world, His people sing,  
shore to shore we hear them call  
the Truth that cries through every age:  
our God is all in all!**

***Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!***

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 64*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;  
preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,  
from the throng of evildoers,
- 3 who whet their tongues like swords,  
who aim bitter words like arrows,
- 4 shooting from ambush at the blameless,  
shooting at him suddenly and without fear.
- 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose;  
they talk of laying snares secretly,  
thinking, "Who can see them?"
- 6 They search out injustice,  
saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search."  
For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.
- 7 But God shoots His arrow at them;  
they are wounded suddenly.
- 8 They are brought to ruin,  
with their own tongues turned against them;  
all who see them will wag their heads.

- 9 Then all mankind fears;  
they tell what God has brought about  
and ponder what He has done.
- 10 Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD  
and take refuge in Him!  
Let all the upright in heart exult!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Merciful Father in heaven,  
we thank You for the freedom You have given us  
through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son.  
But we confess today that we often live like slaves.  
Instead of living like You delight in us,  
we avoid You in shame and guilt.  
Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift,  
we try to earn it with our efforts.  
Instead of accepting Your freedom,  
we prefer our chains.  
Instead of pursuing Your purposes,  
we cling to our short-sighted agendas.  
Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. 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 3:1*

See what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

**And can it be that I should gain  
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me?  
*Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**He left His Father's throne above,  
so free, so infinite His grace.  
Humbled Himself, so great His love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me.**

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

**No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

***Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, should die for me!***

Words by Charles Wesley (1738). Music by Thomas Campbell (1825).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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 8:31-47*

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free?'"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."



<sup>39</sup> They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did." They said to Him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father — even God." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of My own accord, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not 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

*"Who's Your Daddy?"* *Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

PRAYER

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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## GIVING TO THE LORD

*from Nehemiah 10*

We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree... We will not neglect the house of our God.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

**Children of the Heavenly Father,  
safely in His bosom gather.  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven,  
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
and their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.**

**More secure is no one ever,  
than the loved ones of the Savior.  
Not yon star on high abiding,  
nor the bird in home-nest hiding.**

Words by Carolina Sandell-Berg (1855); translated by Ernst W. Olson.  
Swedish folk melody.

Words: © 1925 Board of Publication Lutheran Church of America,  
ren. 1963 (admin. by Augsburg Fortress)

Music: 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

*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.*

## PRAYER | MEDITATION

# 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.

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## 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

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(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*