



Ascension PCA

DECEMBER 24, 2023



CHRISTMAS
EVE

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE



CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:68-79

M: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,

P: That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

M: To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our father Abraham,

P: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him with fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

M: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for You will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins,

P: Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."**

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.**

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

Words by Charles Wesley (1739, 1753; Alt.)
Music by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840);
arr. by William H. Cummings (1856).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels.
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
glory in the highest:
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Words by John Francis Wade (1751); tr. by Frederick Oakeley (1841; alt.).
Music from John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi* (1751).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

CHRISTMAS READING

 PEACE 

(from Genesis)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Words from Latin antiphons (12th century); Latin hymn (1710);
translated by John Mason Neale (1851; Alt. 1951).
Music: plainsong (13th century); arranged by Thomas Helmore (1856).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

CHRISTMAS READING

 **JOY** 

(from Exodus)

Light of the World

**Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,
brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,
shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.**

**Light of the World, from the beginning
the tragedies of time were no match for Your love.
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.
God, You entered in and became one of us.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the world, crown in a manger,
born for the cross, to suffer, to save.
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.
We are the richer by the price that He paid.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the World, soon will be coming.
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory,
and there He shall reign forevermore.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

Words & music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash,
Martin Cash, Scott Cash

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CONFESSING OUR HOPE

Isaiah 42:5-10a

**P: Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:**

**“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

**I am the LORD; that is My name;
My glory I give to no other,
nor My praise to carved idols.**

**Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”**

**Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise from the end of the earth.**

CHRISTMAS READING

 **LOVE** 

(from 2 Samuel)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years,
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God, the King,
and peace to men on earth.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Words by Phillips Brooks (1868). Music by Lewis H. Redner (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

CHRISTMAS READING

 **HOPE** 

(from Luke)

What Child is This

**What Child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here,
the silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Traditional English carol, adapted by William C. Dix (ca. 1865).

Music: "Greensleeves", English Melody (16th century).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

CHRISTMAS READING
❧ IMMANUEL ❧



Silent Night, Holy Night

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Words by Joseph Mohr (1818); translated (circa 1850).

Music by Franz Gruber (1818).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Jesus, Name Above All Names

**Jesus, Name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

THE BLESSING

Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy...
a Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord.



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*



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*