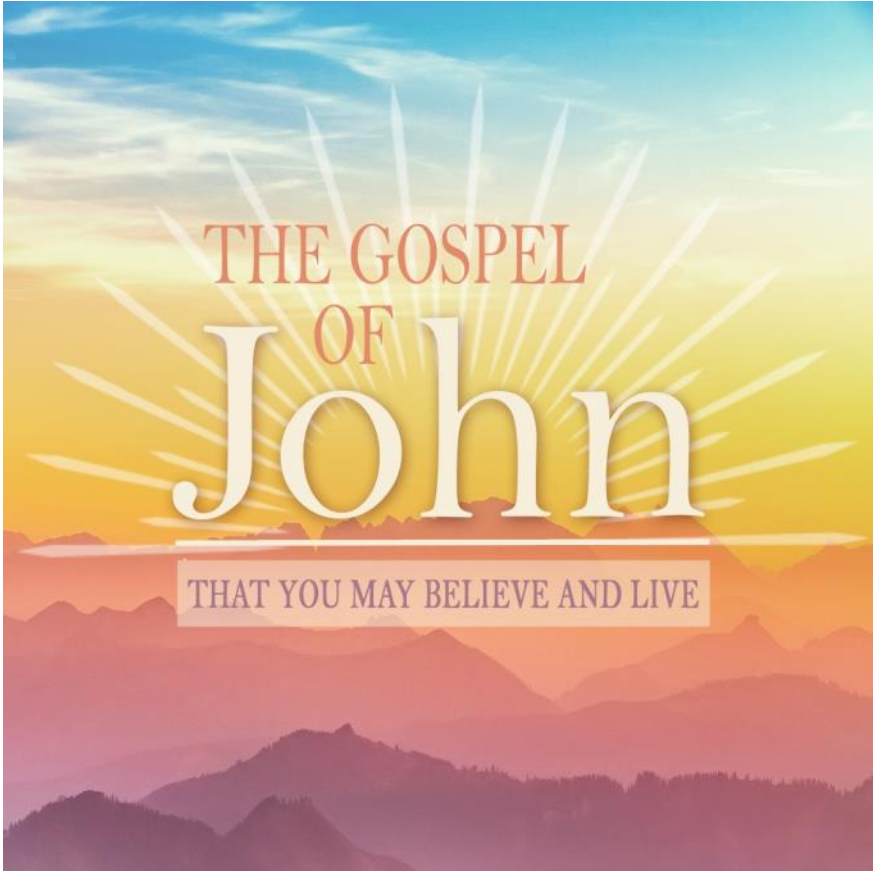




Ascension PCA

January 7, 2024



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

*Grant, Almighty God, that as you invite us daily  
by various means to repentance —  
O grant that we may at length be awakened  
from our indifference,  
and do not allow us to be inebriated  
by the charms of Satan and the world;  
but by Your Spirit rouse us to real groaning,  
that, being ashamed of ourselves,  
we may flee to Your mercy,  
and doubt not but that You will be favorable to us,  
provided with a sincere heart we call on You,  
and seek that reconciliation which You daily offer to us  
by Your Gospel in the name of Your only begotten Son.  
Amen.*

~ John Calvin

# 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

*based on Psalm 108:1-4*

M: Our hearts are ready, O LORD, our hearts are ready!

**P: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!**

M: We will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples,  
we will sing praises to You among the nations.

**P: For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens,  
and Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee*

**Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee  
for the bliss Thy love bestows;  
for the pard'ning grace that saves me,  
and the peace that from it flows.  
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;  
this dull soul to rapture raise:  
Thou must light the flame, or never  
can my love be warmed to praise.**

**Praise, my soul, the God that sought me,  
wretched wand'rer far astray;  
found me lost, and kindly brought me  
from the paths of death away.  
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,  
Him who saw my guilt-born fear;  
and, the light of hope revealing,  
bade the blood-stained cross appear.**

**Praise my Savior God that drew me  
to that cross, new life to give;  
held a blood-sealed pardon to me,  
bade me look to Him and live.  
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed me,  
roused me from my fatal ease;**

**praise the grace whose promise warmed me,  
praise the grace that whispered peace.**

Words by Francis Scott Key (1817).  
Gregorian Chant, arr. by Lowell Mason (1839).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,  
Rich Thompson.  
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and CityAlight 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 67*

*Elder Philip Suh*

- 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us,
- 2 that Your way may be known on earth,  
Your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for You judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
let all the peoples praise You!
- 6 The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.
- 7 God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

*Selah*

*Selah*

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Matthew 6:30–33*

**P: Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Your presence,  
confessing our unworthiness and sinfulness  
in Your sight. We have broken Your holy law.**

**We have not sought first Your kingdom  
and righteousness.**

**We have been anxious and troubled about many things,  
and have neglected the things that belong to our peace.  
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves,  
or done to others as we would have them do to us.**

**Most gracious God, our heavenly Father,  
who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
to save Your people from their sins;  
forgive us, we beg You.**

**Cleanse us from all unrighteousness,  
and renew a right spirit within us:  
through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
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.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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 9:1-41*

<sup>1</sup> As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."





## PRAYER

### GIVING TO THE LORD

*Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.*

*Philippians 4:18-19*

[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

### SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834-1925).

Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)

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

**P: We proclaim that our Lord Jesus  
was sent by the Father into the world,  
that He took upon himself our flesh and blood,  
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.  
We confess that He was condemned to die  
that we might be pardoned,  
and suffered death that we might live.  
We proclaim that He is risen  
to make us right with God  
and that He shall come again  
in the glory of His new creation.  
This we do now and until He comes again;  
we remember His death,  
we proclaim His resurrection,  
we await His coming in glory.**

### 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.  
Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available from the trays.  
Please HOLD elements until we can all partake TOGETHER.*

# SONG OF MEDITATION

## *He Will Hold Me Fast*

**When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
when the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
through life's fearful path;  
for my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

**For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
justice has been satisfied,  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life;  
He will hold me fast;  
'till our faith is turned to sight,  
when He comes at last!**

***He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.***

Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918).  
Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music by Matt Merker (2013).  
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# 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 on the back page.

## 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*