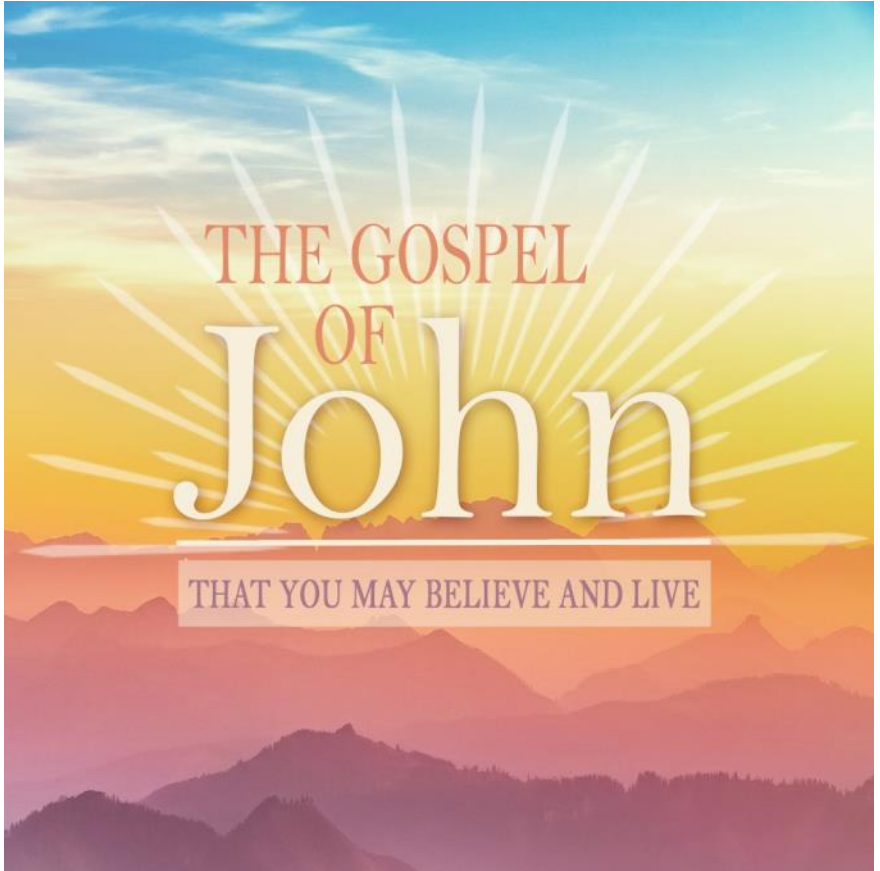




Ascension PCA

January 21, 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

Christ, in Your presence I lack no good thing.

You are the shepherd of my soul,  
guiding me to places of rest,  
far from noise and clamor;  
a meadow of the heart —  
tall grass against an azure sky;  
cooling waters at my side.

Lead me, Lord. Further up. Further in.

*~ Ryan Whitaker Smith & Dan Wilt*

# 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

*(ending with the Lord's prayer in unison)*

**P: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever, Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*1 Chronicles 29:10-11*

M: Praise be to You, O LORD, God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is Yours...

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*O Worship the King*

**O worship the King, all glorious above,  
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love!  
While angels delight to worship above.  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Lord, for Your Glory*

**Lord, for Your glory we sing Your praises.  
We magnify Your holy name.  
All for Your glory, Lord, we bring blessing.  
We seek to honor You all of our days!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are for the glory of You.***

**Almighty Father, we are Your children.  
You have been faithful to Your own.  
Lord, for Your glory, we have been chosen.  
We lay down all we have here at Your throne!**

***We lift our hands, we lift our praise to You,  
We worship all You are in spirit and truth.  
We give our hearts, we live our lives for You,  
We offer all we are, we offer all we have,  
We offer all our lives for the glory of You.***

Words and music by David B. Hampton, Matt Huesmann,  
Grant Cunningham (1998)  
© 1998 New Spring, Matt Huesmann Music, Imagine This Music, River Oaks Music Company

## 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

*Psalms 68:20-35*

*Elder Theo Vander Wel*

- 20 Our God is a God of salvation,  
and to God, the LORD, belong deliverances from death.  
21 But God will strike the heads of His enemies,  
the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways.  
22 The LORD said,  
"I will bring them back from Bashan,  
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,

23 that you may strike your feet in their blood,  
that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion  
from the foe.”

24 Your procession is seen, O God,  
the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary —  
25 the singers in front, the musicians last,  
between them virgins playing tambourines:  
26 “Bless God in the great congregation,  
the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!”  
27 There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead,  
the princes of Judah in their throng,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

28 Summon Your power, O God,  
the power, O God, by which You have worked for us.  
29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem  
kings shall bear gifts to You.

30 Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds,  
the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples.  
Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute;  
scatter the peoples who delight in war.

31 Nobles shall come from Egypt;  
Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

32 O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;  
sing praises to the LORD, *Selah*

33 to Him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
behold, He sends out His voice, His mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
and whose power is in the skies.

35 Awesome is God from His sanctuary;  
the God of Israel — He is the one who gives power  
and strength to His people.  
Blessed be God!

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O God, the Father of lights,  
with Whom there is no change.  
Look in mercy upon us, Your wayward children.  
Direct the eyes of our faith to You,  
that we may hear You through Your Word and Spirit.  
That we might walk securely amidst the shadows  
of this mortal life.**

**Pardon our sins and give us such a vision  
of the truth in Jesus,  
that darkness may be driven from our hearts,  
that we may sing to You songs of praise  
through Christ Jesus our Lord, 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

*Isaiah 54:8, 43:25, 44:22*

- L: "With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,  
says the LORD, your Redeemer.  
I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.  
Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."  
Believe this good news and live in peace. Amen.

## SONGS OF ASSURANCE

*Before the Throne of God Above*

**Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
who ever lives and pleads for me.**

**My name is graven on His hands,  
my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart;  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there,  
who made an end to all my sin.**

**Because the sinless Savior died  
my sinful soul is counted free,  
for God, the Just, is satisfied  
to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of Glory and of Grace.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself, I cannot die,  
my soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God;  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.**

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Music by Vikki Cook (1997).  
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

### *Speak, O Lord*

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,  
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
all Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail —  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us —  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built,  
and the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
© 2005 Thankyou Music



# 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 10:1-21*

<sup>1</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father."

<sup>19</sup> There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to Him?" <sup>21</sup> Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

## 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

*"The Good Shepherd"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Philippians 4:19-20*

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING & RESPONSE

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need Thy tender care.  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use Thy folds prepare:  
*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.***

**We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way.  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray:  
*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.***

**Thou hast promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be.  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:**

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
let us early turn to Thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
let us early turn to Thee.***

Words by Dorothy Ann Thrupp (1836). Music by William B. Bradbury (1859)  
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.

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

#### CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13 & Romans 8*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  
that He was buried,  
that He was raised on the third day,  
and that He appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.**

**Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;**

**He is our Lord and our God.**

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## 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

*How Sweet and Awesome is the Place*

**How sweet and awesome is the place  
with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays  
the choicest of her stores.**

**While all our hearts and all our songs  
join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
"Lord, why was I a guest?"**

**"Why was I made to hear Thy voice,  
and enter while there's room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice,  
and rather starve than come?"**

**'Twas the same love that spread the feast  
that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste,  
and perished in our sin.**

**Pity the nations, O our God,  
constrain the earth to come;  
send Thy victorious Word abroad,  
and bring the strangers home.**

**We long to see Thy churches full,  
that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul,  
sing Thy redeeming grace.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1707; Alt. 1961, 1990, mod.)  
Old Irish hymn melody (alt. 1990)  
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



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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.



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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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