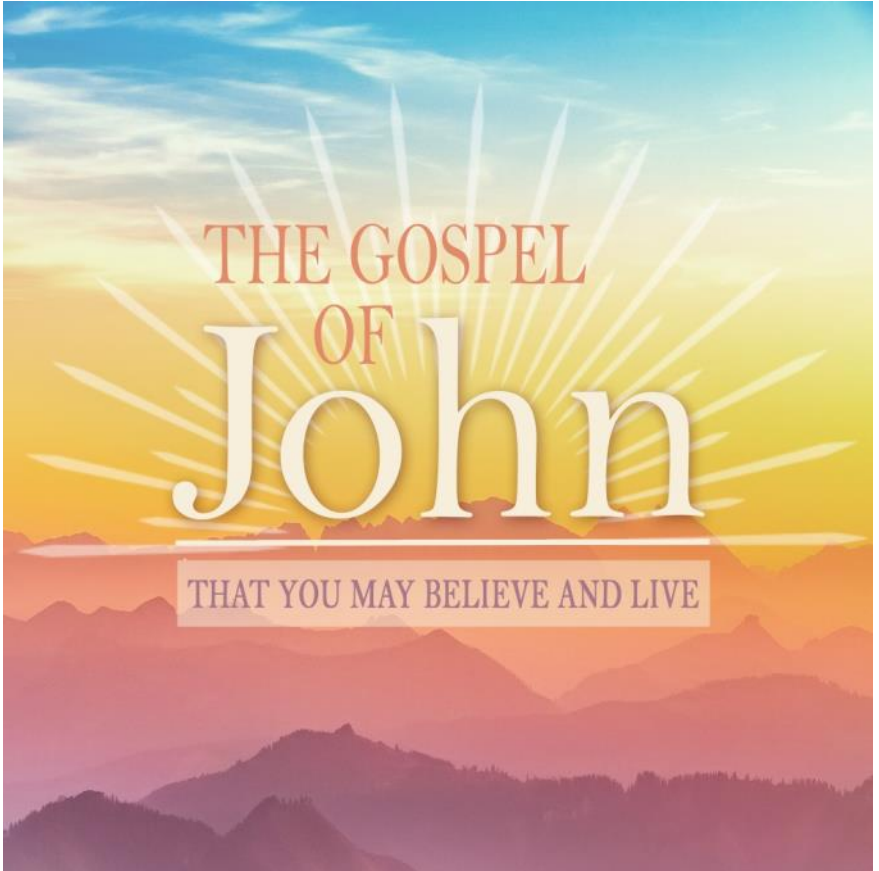




Ascension PCA

January 28, 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

***The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous man runs into it and is safe.*** ~Proverbs 18:10

I am safe because of the glorious mystery of grace.
I am safe because of the presence of boundless love.
I am safe because of divine mercy, divine wisdom,
divine power, and divine grace.
I am safe, not because I never face danger,
but because You are with me in it.

You have not given me a ticket out of danger.
You have not promised me a life of ease.
You have chosen to place me in a fallen world.

I am safe because You have given me the one thing
that is the only thing that will ever keep me safe.
You have given me You.

~ Paul Tripp

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

2 Corinthians 1:2; Psalm 91:1; Psalm 37:7

M: Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 84

**O Lord of hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.
My soul is longing, fainting,
Jehovah's courts to see;
My heart and flesh are crying
O living God, for Thee.**

**So they from strength unwearied
go forward unto strength,
till they appear in Zion
before the Lord at length.
O hear, Lord God of Jacob,
to me an answer yield;
The face of Thine Anointed,
behold, O God, our Shield.**

**O God of hosts, Jehovah,
how blest is everyone
who confidence reposes
on Thee, O Lord, alone.
O Lord of Hosts, how lovely
the place where Thou dost dwell!
Thy tabernacles holy
in pleasantness excel.**

Words from Psalm 84; *Book of Psalms* (1871); alt.
Music by Henry T. Smart (1836).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Let us love and sing and wonder,
let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood,
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice
join and point to mercy's store;
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,
justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus
of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted Him before us,
now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with Your blood;
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Holy Forever

**A thousand generations falling down in worship
to sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
And all who've gone before us
and all who will believe
will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.**

**Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
all powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.**

***And the angels cry, "Holy".
All creation cries, "Holy".
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.***

**If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
sing the song forever to the Lamb.**

**If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name,
sing the song forever to the Lamb.**

We'll sing the song forever and amen.

**Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
all powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.**

***And the angels cry, "Holy".
All creation cries, "Holy".
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.***

***Hear Your people sing, "Holy",
to the King of Kings, "Holy".
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.***

***Hear Your people sing, "Holy",
to the King of Kings, "Holy".
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.***

Words and music by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram,
Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham.

© 2022 Brian and Jenn Publishing; Capitol CMG Paragon; S.D.G. Publishing;
Be Essential Songs; My Magnolia Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs;
Bethel Music Publishing

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 69:1-15

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 Save me, O God!
For the waters have come up to my neck.
- 2 I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.
- 3 I am weary with my crying out;
my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.
- 4 More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without cause;
mighty are those who would destroy me,
those who attack me with lies.
What I did not steal
must I now restore?
- 5 O God, You know my folly;
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from You.
- 6 Let not those who hope in You be put to shame through me,
O LORD GOD of hosts;
let not those who seek You be brought to dishonor through me,
O God of Israel.
- 7 For it is for Your sake that I have borne reproach,
that dishonor has covered my face.
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my mother's sons.
- 9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach You
have fallen on me.
- 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting,
it became my reproach.

- 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.
- 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.
- 13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of Your steadfast love
answer me in Your saving faithfulness.
- 14 Deliver me
from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.
- 15 Let not the flood sweep over me,
or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: O God, our Savior, our Shepherd,

**We come before You today as foolish sheep
who wander from You.**

**You have set Your love upon us,
chosen us, and saved us,
but we find it hard to trust You
and prefer to turn to our own wisdom
and understanding.**

**You lead us in green pastures for Your own name's sake,
but we reject the feast that You lay before us
and try frantically to fill ourselves up
with things that cannot satisfy.**

**You lead us by still waters to restore our souls,
yet we recklessly dabble with strong currents
of temptation
and are easily swept away by torrents
of sinful cravings and lust.**

**You have given us the great privilege of knowing
and worshipping our Creator, the one true God,
but we prefer to bow before our worthless idols
day after day
in search of the morsels of comfort or pleasure
they offer us.**

Father, forgive us.

**Jesus, You are our sacrificial lamb.
Thank you for never straying from the path
of obedience to Your Father,
even when that path led you to a brutal cross
and the mockery of those who should have
worshipped and adored You.**

**Holy Spirit, help us to see where the path
of blessing lies,
and give us hearts eager to travel that path.
Grant us unshakable confidence
in the death and life of Jesus,
until His wounds cleanse our guilt and give us great joy.
In Jesus' name 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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Colossians 1:11-14

L: May you be strengthened with all power,
according to His glorious might,
for all endurance and patience with joy,
giving thanks to the Father,
Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance
of the saints in light.
He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

SONGS OF ASSURANCE

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**How deep the Father's love for us;
how vast beyond all measure,
that He would give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross;
my guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there,
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

Words & music by Stuart Townend (1995).
© 1995 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 10:22-42

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone You but for blasphemy, because You, being a man, make Yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" ³⁵ If He called them gods to whom the word of God came — and Scripture cannot be broken — ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?" ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of My Father, then do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father." ³⁹ Again they sought to arrest Him, but He escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰ He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there He remained. ⁴¹ And many came to Him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." ⁴² And many believed in Him there.

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

"From Start to Finish"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 33:20-21

Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING & RESPONSE

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).

PUBLIC DOMAIN | © 2013 Getty Music Publishing, Matthew Merker Music

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

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

SONG OF MEDITATION

My Jesus, I Love Thee

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I'll love Thee in life; I will love Thee in death,
and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown upon my brow:
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.**

Words by William R. Featherstone (1864).
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon (1876)
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 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 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*