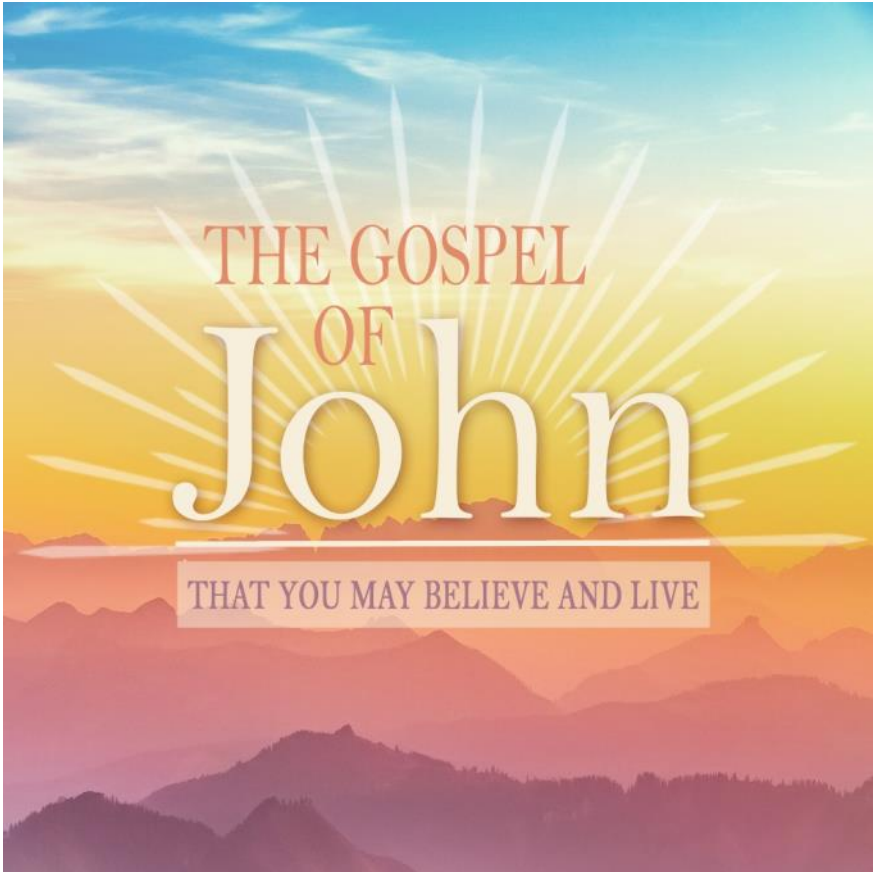




Ascension PCA

February 18, 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

Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.  
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.  
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.

~ *George Herbert*

# 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

*Nehemiah 9:5b,6 & Psalm 89:52*

**M:** Stand up and bless the LORD your God  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Blessed be Your glorious name,  
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

**P:** **You are the LORD, You alone.**  
**You have made the heaven, the heaven of heavens,**  
**with all their host, the earth and all that is on it,**  
**the seas and all that is in them;**  
**and You preserve all of them;**  
**and the host of heaven worships You.**  
**Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and amen.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Psalm 19*

**The spacious heav's declare  
the glory of our God.  
The firmament displays  
His handiwork abroad;  
Day unto day doth utter speech,  
and night to night doth knowledge teach.**

**In heav'n He set a tent,  
a dwelling for the sun,  
which as a mighty man  
delights his course to run.  
He, bridegoomlike in his array,  
comes from his chamber, bringing day.**

**Jehovah's perfect law  
restores the soul again;  
His testimony sure  
gives wisdom unto men.  
The precepts of the LORD are right,  
and fill the heart with great delight.**

**Let all the words I speak  
and all the thoughts within  
come up before Thy sight  
and Thine approval win.  
O Thou Jehovah, unto me  
my Rock and my Redeemer be.**

Words based on the *Book of Psalms* (1871) and *The Psalter* (1912).  
Music by Music by John Darwall (1770).  
Text: © 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications. Music: PUBLIC DOMAIN.

### *Our Great God*

**Eternal God, unchanging,  
mysterious and unknown;  
Your boundless love, unailing,  
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.  
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# 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 71:1-16*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- 1 In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!
- 2 In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline Your ear to me, and save me!
- 3 Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may continually come;  
You have given the command to save me,  
for You are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
- 5 For You, O LORD, are my hope,  
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- 6 Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;  
You are He who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of You.
- 7 I have been as a portent to many,  
but You are my strong refuge.
- 8 My mouth is filled with Your praise,  
and with Your glory all the day.
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
- 10 For my enemies speak concerning me;  
those who watch for my life consult together
- 11 and say, "God has forsaken him;  
pursue and seize him,  
for there is none to deliver him."
- 12 O God, be not far from me;  
O my God, make haste to help me!
- 13 May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;  
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered  
who seek my hurt.

- 14 But I will hope continually  
and will praise You yet more and more.
- 15 My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts,  
of Your deeds of salvation all the day,  
for their number is past my knowledge.
- 16 With the mighty deeds of the LORD GOD I will come;  
I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Adapted from John Knox's Liturgy of 1560*

**P: Almighty God,**

**We are unworthy to come into Your presence,  
because of our many sins.**

**We do not deserve any grace or mercy from You.**

**We have sinned against you, O Lord,  
and we have offended You.**

**And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins  
and offenses,**

**so also do we acknowledge You to be a merciful God,  
a loving and favorable Father,  
to all who turn to You.**

**And so we humbly ask You,  
for the sake of Christ Your Son,  
to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses.**

**Forgive the sins of our youth,  
and the sins of our old age.**

**By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts,  
so that, not only the actions of our life,  
but also the words of our mouths,  
and the smallest thoughts of our minds,  
may be guided and governed by You.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. 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

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

L: For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

### *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*

**What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.**

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?**

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

**Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
then sin and death will be destroyed,  
and we will feast in endless joy,  
when Christ is ours forevermore.**

***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***



***O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,  
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker  
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

## 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 12:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

#### 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

*"Worthy is the Lamb"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*based on Psalm 111:1*

Let us give thanks to the LORD with all our being.  
In the company of the upright,  
let us honor God for the blessings and goodness  
we have received.

## SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

*I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
from the curse to set me free.**

**I will tell the wondrous story,  
how my lost estate to save;  
In His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

**I will sing of my Redeemer,  
and His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God with Him to be.**

***Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt  
and made me free.***

Words by Philip P. Bliss (1876). Music by Luke Morton (2005).  
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# 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 Nicene Creed*

**P: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.**

...

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;  
we acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. 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

*Jesus, Strong and Kind*

**Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.  
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.  
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.*

***For the Lord is good and faithful.  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus.  
Jesus, strong and kind.  
Jesus, strong and kind.***

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,  
Colin Buchanan.  
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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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## 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*