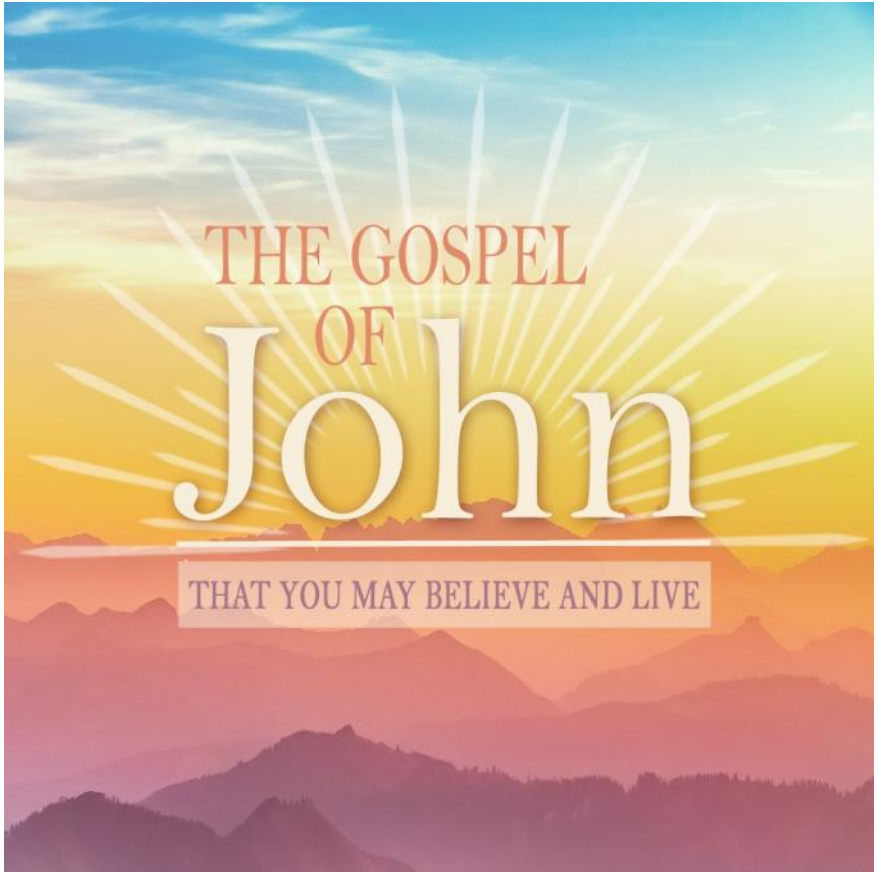




Ascension PCA

March 3, 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

He that...wants relief must come to Christ himself.

He must not be content with coming to His Church
and His ordinances or to the assemblies of His people
for prayer and praise...

He must go higher, further, much further than this.
He must have personal dealings with Christ Himself.

All else in religion is worthless without Him.

The King's palace, the attendant servants,
the richly furnished banqueting house,
the very banquet itself —

all are nothing, unless we speak with the King.

His hand alone can take the burden off our backs
and make us feel free...

We must deal directly with Christ.

~ J. C. Ryle

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

1 Kings 8:23

M: There is no God like the LORD, the God of Israel,
in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing steadfast love
to His servants who walk before Him with all their heart.

Come and worship the King of Love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

**P: Lord God eternal, sovereign and immutable,
holy, just, and merciful;
Maker of all things by Your power.
Ruler of all things in Your wisdom.**

**We adore You for the wonders of heaven and the earth;
for the goodness of Your dealings,
and the perfection of Your secret counsels,
for Your saving love revealed in Jesus Christ,
and the living presence made known by the Holy Spirit.**

**By day and night, with voice and heart,
praise and adoration shall be given to You,
O Lord, most mighty and most merciful,
from generation unto generation,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Psalm 100. Words by William Kethe (1561).
Music by Louis Bourgeois' *Genevan Psalter* (1551).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

**Rejoice, the Lord is King;
your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains
He took His seat above.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
and take His servants up
to their eternal home.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Words by Charles Wesley (1744); Music by John Darwall (1770).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 72:1-20

Elder Chris Sledge

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and Your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge Your people with righteousness,
and Your poor with justice!
- 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- 5 May they fear You while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- 7 In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- 8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- 9 May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
- 11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!
- 12 For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.
- 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
- 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

- 15 Long may he live;
 may gold of Sheba be given to him!
 May prayer be made for him continually,
 and blessings invoked for him all the day!
- 16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;
 on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
 may its fruit be like Lebanon;
 and may people blossom in the cities
 like the grass of the field!
- 17 May his name endure forever,
 his fame continue as long as the sun!
 May people be blessed in him,
 all nations call him blessed!
- 18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
 who alone does wondrous things.
- 19 Blessed be His glorious name forever;
 may the whole earth be filled with His glory!
 Amen and Amen!
- 20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
You are faithful in all Your ways.
Not one word has failed of all Your promises.**

**But we have not been so loyal to You.
We have cherished sinful thoughts,
disowned You with deceitful words,
and behaved contrary to Your Word.**

**In Your mercy, again show Yourself faithful and just
to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
For Jesus' sake. 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

1 Peter 1:3-4

- L: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

SONG OF ASSURANCE

There is One Gospel

**There is one Gospel on which I stand
for all eternity.**

**It is my story, my Father's plan.
The Son has rescued me.**

**Oh what a Gospel, oh what a peace.
My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel to which I cling,
all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet,
He saved me on the cross.**

**No more I boast in what I can bring,
no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**There is one Gospel where hope is found,
the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down,
He lives and I am free.**

**Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes,
my life is His and His hope is mine.
For He has promised I too will rise.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And in this Gospel, the church is one,
we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on
to lead us safely home.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**And when in glory still I will sing
of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson (2022).
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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 12:12-26

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him.

¹⁷ The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told

Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

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 Gentle King"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

1 Chronicles 29:14b

All things come from You,
and of Your own have we given You.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.**

**No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round His piercéd feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) Music by George Job Elvey (1868).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God
and the final authoritative rule of life and faith?

Do you acknowledge your need for the grace of God,
humbling yourself,
offering no morality or righteousness of your own,
but asking only for the mercy of God in Christ?

Do you accept Christ as the sacrifice for your sin,
as the Prophet for all your truth,
and as the King of all your life,
resting on Him and His righteousness alone
for your salvation?

Do you pledge to live a life worthy of your calling
by reliance on the Holy Spirit
according to the Word of God?

Do you promise to support this communion
with your prayers and offerings,
to strive for its purity and peace,
and to submit to its leadership in all biblical things?

TO THE BODY OF CHRIST: (PLEASE STAND)

M: Do you as a congregation, now welcome these brothers and sisters as members of this body?

P: We do.

M: Do you promise to take seriously your responsibilities to build up them up and to seek to practice with them true Christian community and true Biblical church life?

P: We do.

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

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

There Is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer: Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.**

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

Words and music by Melody Green (1982).

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Ears To Hear (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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

The Holy Bible, **English Standard Version.**

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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 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*