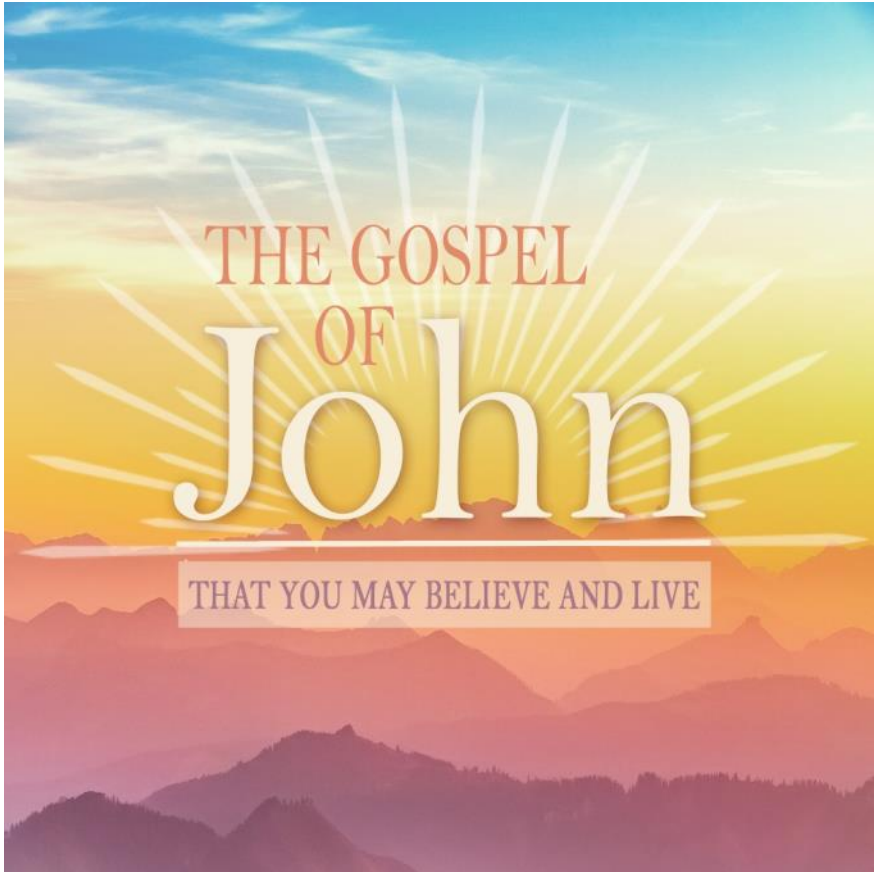




Ascension PCA

April 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 Christian knows no change with regard to God.
He may be rich today and poor tomorrow;
he may be sickly today and well tomorrow;
he may be in happiness today,
tomorrow he may be distressed —
but there is no change with regard to
his relationship to God.

If He loved me yesterday, He loves me today.
My unmoving mansion of rest is my blessed Lord.

Let prospects be blighted, let hopes be blasted,
let joy be withered, let mildews destroy everything.
I have lost nothing of what I have in God.
He is "my strong habitation whereunto
I can continually resort."

I am a pilgrim in the world, but at home in my God.
In the earth I wander, but in God I dwell in a quiet habitation.

~ by Charles Spurgeon

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

Exodus 15:11,2

**P: Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?**

**The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalms 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God the Father reigning o'er us,
Jesus bringing life to man.
Ever singing, by the Spirit,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward,
in the blessed song of life.**

Words by Henry van Dyke (1907).
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Step by Step

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.
Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

**I will seek You in the morning
and I will learn to walk in Your ways,
And step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.**

**Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.
Oh God, You are my God
and I will ever praise You.**

Words and music by David (Beaker) Strasser (1992).

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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 78:1-20

Elder C.J. DeGroot

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- 3 things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
- 4 We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might,
and the wonders that He has done.
- 5 He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which He commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
- 6 that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep His commandments;
- 7

8 and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
turned back on the day of battle.

10 They did not keep God's covenant,
but refused to walk according to His law.

11 They forgot His works
and the wonders that He had shown them.

12 In the sight of their fathers He performed wonders
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.

14 In the daytime He led them with a cloud,
and all the night with a fiery light.

15 He split rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

16 He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

17 Yet they sinned still more against Him,
rebellious against the Most High in the desert.

18 They tested God in their heart
by demanding the food they craved.

19 They spoke against God, saying,
"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out
and streams overflowed.
Can He also give bread
or provide meat for his people?"

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Great God,
You have shown us the way of life
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
We confess with shame
our slowness to learn of Him,
our failure to follow Him,
and our reluctance to bear the cross.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. 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 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

I proclaim to you that in Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

He Was Wounded

**He was wounded for our transgressions,
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;
For our guilt He gave us peace,
from our bondage gave release,
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,
and with His stripes our souls are healed.**

**He was numbered among transgressors,
we did esteem Him forsaken by His God;
As our sacrifice He died,
that the law be satisfied,
And all our sin, and all our sin,
and all our sin was laid on Him.**

**We had wandered, we all had wandered
far from the fold of "the Shepherd of the sheep";
But He sought us where we were,
on the mountains bleak and bare,
And brought us home, and brought us home,
and brought us safely home to God.**

**Who can number His generation?
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?
Millions, dead, now live again,
myriads follow in His train!
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,
victorious Lord and coming King!**

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1920).

Music by Joseph N. Partain (1977).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music © 2015 Nathan Partain

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 14:1-14

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

GLORIA PATRI

**Glorify 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 Promise of a Place"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

Haggai 2:8

The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,
declares the LORD of hosts.

SONG OF RESPONSE & THANKSGIVING

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
the house of Thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved
with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God:
her walls before Thee stand.
dear as the apple of Thine eye
and graven on Thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall,
for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be giv'n,
till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.**

**Jesus, Thou Friend divine,
our Savior and our King,
Thy hand from ev'ry snare and foe
shall great deliv'rance bring.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be giv'n
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heaven.**

Words by Timothy Dwight (1800). Music by Aaron Williams (1763).
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

The Apostles' Creed & The Mystery of Faith

**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,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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.**

M: Great is the mystery of faith:

**P: Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

M: Praise to You, Lord Jesus:

**P: Dying, You destroyed our death;
Rising, You restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

M: According to His commandment:

**P: 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

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**Jesus, Lover of my soul,
let me to Thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till life's storm is past;
safe into the haven guide;
receive my soul at last!**

**Other refuge have I none;
I helpless hang on Thee;
leave, oh, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.**

**All my trust on Thee is stayed,
all help from Thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
in the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, are all I want;
here more than all I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.**

**Just and holy is Thy name,
I'm all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am;
Thou full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.**

**Thou of life the fountain art,
let me take of Thee;
spring Thou up within my heart,
for all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1740). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: 2000 Cardiphonia Music .

PRAYER

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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Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

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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

PASTORS:

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

Brian Walsh

brian@ascension-pca.org

DEACONS:

Kyle Bartlett

kyle@ascension-pca.org

Bob Briest

bob_briest@ascension-pca.org

Mike Wheeler

mike@ascension-pca.org

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge

cmkesledge@gmail.com

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Rebecca Wheeler

rwheeler2022@outlook.com

MEAL COORDINATOR:

Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

Dave Ball

dave@daveball.net



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: Discipleship Hour

10:00AM: Worship Service (in-person & livestream)

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*