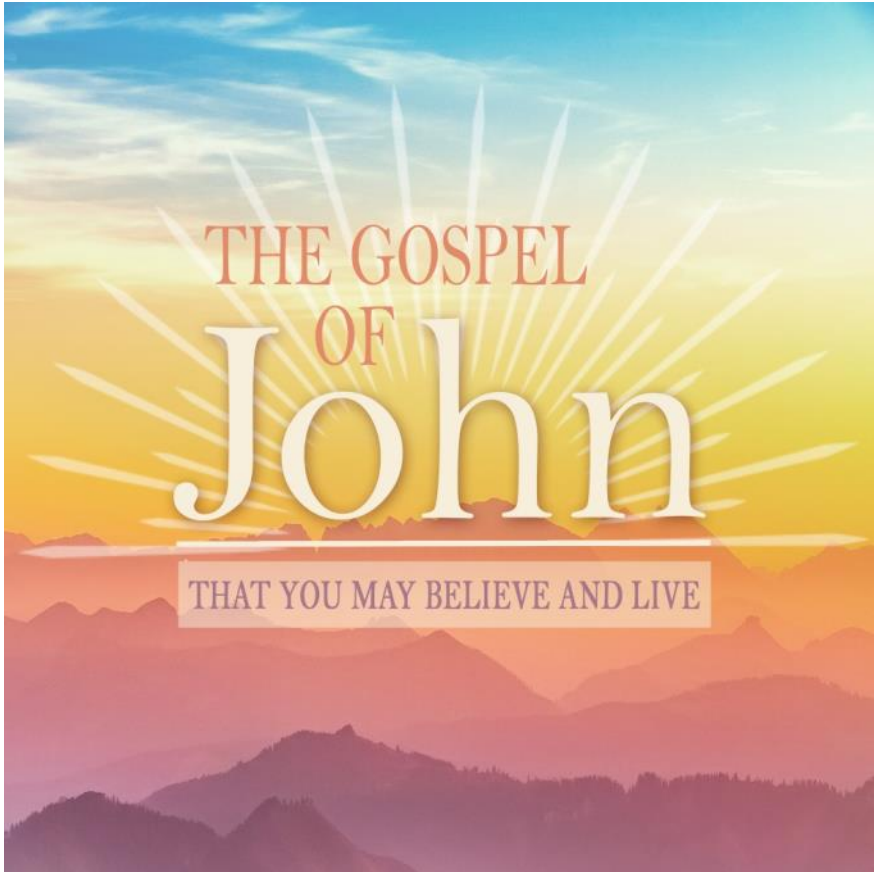




Ascension PCA

September 1, 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

*O my God, with thanksgiving allow me
to confess to You Your mercies.*

*Let my bones be covered with Your love, like dew,
and let them ask You: "Who is like You, Lord?"*

*You have shattered my bonds,
and I will offer to You a sacrifice of thanksgiving.
I will explain to everyone just how You broke those bonds.
And when they hear, they will say: "Blessed be the Lord,
in heaven and on earth, His name is wonderful!"*

*Stir us up, Lord. Kindle us and draw us close.
Inflame us and grow sweet to us. Let us love, and let us run.*

~ Augustine of Hippo

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

M: Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life,
Who created us.

**P: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen One,
Who lives among us.**

M: Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, Who renews us.

**P: To the one true, Triune God
be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ!**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Behold Our God

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?**

Behold our God, seated on His throne.

Come, let us adore Him.

Behold our King! Nothing can compare.

Come, let us adore Him!

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!**

***Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore ...
Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King! Nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!***

Words and music by
Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge (2011)
© 2011 Sovereign Grace Praise

Psalm 31:1-8

**In You, O Lord, I take refuge;
ashamed let me not be.
Your righteousness eternal
express by saving me.
Incline your ear to hear me;
with speed deliver me.
To me O be a strong rock
a fort to rescue me.**

**You are my rock and fortress;
for Your sake lead and guide.
Free me from nets they've hidden;
my stronghold You abide.
I now commit my spirit
into Your outstretched hand.
I know You have redeemed me,
Lord God of truths that stand.**

**I hate those serving idols;
my trust is in the Lord.
I'll triumph in Your mercy;
for anguish You regard.
You've known my soul's afflictions,
kept me from hostile hand.
My feet You have established
where they have room to stand.**

Words from Psalm 31. Music by Henry (1836).
© 1994 Crown & Covenant Publications.

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 92:1-15

- 1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
- 2 to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night,
- 3 to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.
- 5 How great are Your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!
- 6 The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:
- 7 that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;
- 8 but You, O LORD, are on high forever.
- 9 For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, Your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.
- 10 But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
You have poured over me fresh oil.
- 11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.
- 12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,
- 15 to declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Redeeming God, we thank You for awakening our souls to know and desire You.

**Help us to approach You with reverence and awe;
with holy boldness and joyful expectation.**

**We confess to You today that in our weakness
we too often forget to think of You.**

**And when we do, in our pride and rebellion,
we spurn Your wise commandments and instruction.**

O God, melt our hearts.

Show us our sin and give us sweet repentance.

**Grant us greater faith to believe that Christ has
made an end to all our sin:**

past, present, and future.

**Open our eyes to see our wonderful Savior
and fly to Him for refuge.**

**Replace our guilty fear with joyful, awestruck wonder
until the good works to which You have called us
begin to flow from transformed hearts. 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 FORGIVENESS

from Revelation 1:5-6

**M: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
by His blood,**

**He has made us to be a kingdom and priests
to serve His God and Father.**

P: To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**His oath, His covenant, His blood,
support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.**

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

Words by Edward Mote (1834); music by John Stainer (1863).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you."²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to Him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

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

"Peace Be With You..."

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

GIVING TO THE LORD

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

Proverbs 3:5,9

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

All Is Well

**The sun beams on behind the clouds,
and in the dark still grace abounds.
All is well because of God's great love.
The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**He feels our weakness, knows our need,
and for our good He intercedes.
All is well because of God's great love.
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear,
the Lord of comfort draws us near,
and all is well because of God's great love**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

**His coming soon will fill the sky,
and all that's wrong will be made right.
With newborn eyes we will behold
the glory of the risen Lord.
All will be well because of God's great love.
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.**

***How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands He fulfills ev'ry promise.
He will never leave our side.***

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

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

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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A NOTE ABOUT GIVING

Please make sure that checks are made out to
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and that any automatic payments are being sent
to the **P.O. Box mailing address** listed on the back page.

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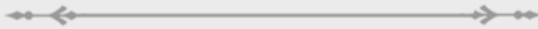
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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

Meeting Address: 8224 220th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

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