



# Ascension PCA

December 29, 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

*Cease to regard the Gospel as a mere collection of dry doctrines.*

*Look at it rather as the revelation of a mighty living Being in whose sight you are daily to live.*

*Cease to regard it as a mere set of abstract propositions and abstruse principles and rules.*

*Look at it as the introduction to a glorious personal Friend. This is the kind of Gospel that the apostles preached.*

*They did not go about the world telling men of love and mercy and pardon in the abstract.*

*The leading subject of all their sermons was the loving heart of an actual living Christ.*

*This is the kind of Gospel which is most calculated to promote sanctification and fitness for glory...*

*There is all the difference in the world between an idea and a person.*

~ 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!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Colossians 1:11-14*

M: 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 PRAISE

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.  
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).  
Traditional Welsh hymn melo

## *This Is Our God*

**God our Father, full of power,  
Maker of the heavens, Maker of the world;  
forming all things, seen and unseen,  
truly the Almighty, beyond all measure worth;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!  
We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Our Lord Jesus sent to save us,  
born unto a virgin, lived a perfect life;  
greatly suffered, dying for us.  
From the grave He's risen, seated now on high;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!  
We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

**Spirit, holy, One in glory,  
speaking through the prophets,  
empowering the Church;  
life is given by and through Him,  
with the Son and Father, worshipped and adored;  
Holy is His Name!**

***We believe the Lord our God is One,  
Father, Spirit, Son; this is our God!  
We believe forever He will reign.  
Let the church proclaim: this is our God!***

*Inspired by the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)*

Words and music by Dave Fournier, Doug Plank, George Romanacce,  
Neil DeGraide, Zach Jones (2015).

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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

## *Isaiah 6:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of His glory!

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

<sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Lord God Almighty,  
As we gaze upon Your holiness,  
we are devastated by our sinfulness.**

**Show us our Savior!**

**The prophet cried, “Woe is me!” as his unclean lips  
were exposed in the light of Your holiness.**

**We come boldly to You because the woe that we deserve  
has been entirely poured out on Your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you, Father, that the cross stands empty now.  
Jesus is risen, and You have made us alive in Him.**

**Grant us the grace to live lives set apart by Your grace,  
reflecting Your glory,**

**that the world might see and bring glory to You.**

**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.*

## THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*Proverbs 28:13 & 1 Peter 1:3*

- M: He who conceals his sins does not prosper,  
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
- P: 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...**

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
to Thy glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
spread His praise from shore to shore;  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
changeth never, nevermore.**

**How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
watcheth o'er them from the throne.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
Love of ev'ry love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to Thee.**

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834–1925).

Music by Thomas John Williams (1890)

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.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### READING OF THE WORD

*2 Peter 1:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## 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.**





# SONG OF THANKSGIVING

## *Refiner's Fire*

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold  
and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold,  
pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from within  
and make me holy.**

**Purify my heart  
cleanse me from my sin,  
deep within.**

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

***Refiner's fire:  
My heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for You, my Master;  
ready to do Your will.***

# 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

*from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1*

**P: I believe that I am not my own,  
but belong —  
body and soul,  
in life and in death —  
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for my sins  
with His precious blood,  
and has set me free  
from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven:  
in fact, all things must work together  
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to Him,  
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for Him.**

## 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

*I Delight (Isaiah 61:10)*

**I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**As a bridegroom adorns  
his head like a priest,  
As a bride adorns her head with jewels...**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**For He has clothed me  
with garments of salvation;  
He has arrayed me  
in robes of righteousness.**

**So I delight, greatly in the LORD,  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

## 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

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

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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.



## 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*

**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*

MEDIA (SOUND & PROJECTION):

**Dave Ball**

*dave@daveball.net*

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

**Monica Sledge**

*cmkesledge@gmail.com*

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

**Anna Hitchcock** [temp]

*hitchcrew@gmail.com*

MEAL COORDINATOR:

**Sheila Bloedow**

*s.bloedow@comcast.net*



## ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

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

**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*