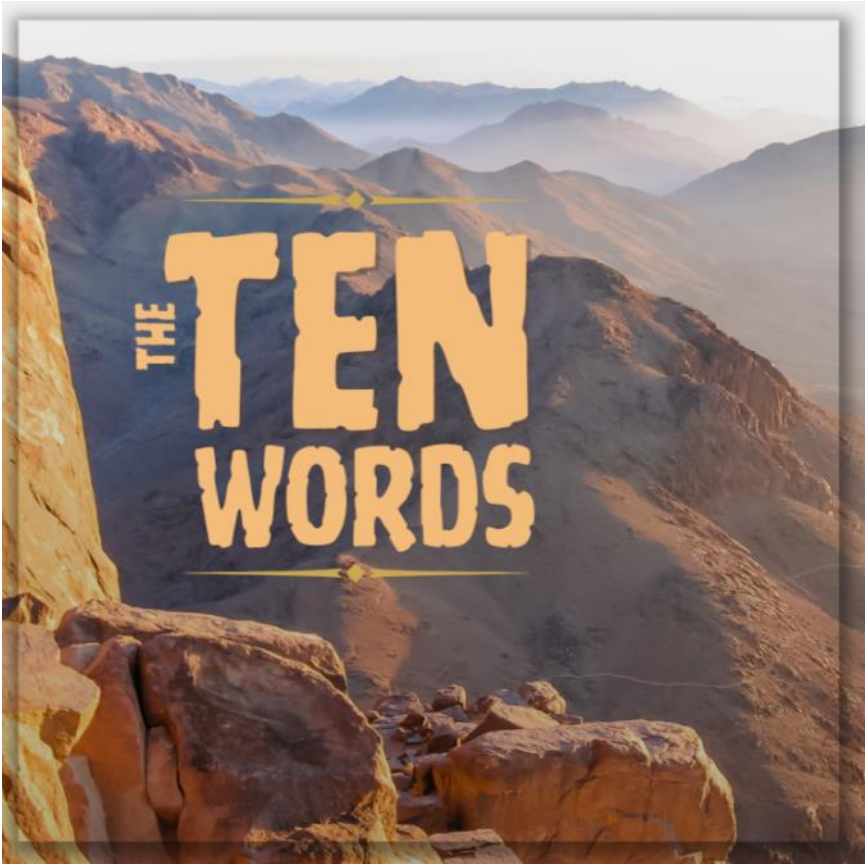




# Ascension PCA

January 19, 2025



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

*Thou Great I Am,*

*Fill my mind with elevation and grandeur*

*at the thought of a Being with whom*

*one day is as a thousand years,*

*and a thousand years as one day.*

*A mighty God, who amidst the lapse of worlds,*

*and the revolutions of empires,*

*feels no variableness, but is glorious in immortality.*

*May I rejoice that, while men die, the Lord lives;*

*that, while all creatures are broken reeds, empty cisterns,*

*fading flowers, withering grass,*

*He is the Rock of Ages, the Fountain of living waters.*

~ from *The Valley of Vision*

# 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

*Psalm 47:1-2,5-7*

- M: Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.
- P: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*O Worship the King*

**O worship the King, all glorious above,  
and gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love!  
While angels delight to worship above.  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

Words by Robert Grant (1833)

Music by Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806), arr. William Gardiner (1815)

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## *Glorious Christ*

**The radiance of the Father  
before the dawn of time;  
You spoke and all creation came to be.  
The molecules and planets  
reveal Your great design,  
and every one was made so we could see,  
so we could see:**

*You are the glorious Christ,  
the greatest of all delights.  
Your power is unequalled,  
Your love beyond all heights.*

*No greater sacrifice  
than when You laid down Your life.  
We join the song of angels  
who praise You day and night,  
Glorious Christ.*

**You left the air of heaven  
to breathe the dust of earth,  
and dwell among the outcast and the poor.  
You came to be forsaken  
and died to take our curse,  
so You could be our joy forevermore,  
forevermore.**

*You are the glorious Christ,  
the greatest of all delights.  
Your power is unequalled,  
Your love beyond all heights.*

*No greater sacrifice  
than when You laid down Your life.  
We join the song of angels  
who praise You day and night ...*

*You are the glorious Christ,  
the greatest of all delights.  
Your power is unequalled,  
Your love beyond all heights.*

*No greater sacrifice  
than when You laid down Your life.  
We join the song of angels  
who praise You day and night,  
Glorious Christ.*

# 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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*1 Corinthians 7:25-40*

*Elder Brett Chase*

<sup>25</sup> Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. <sup>26</sup> I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup> Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. <sup>28</sup> But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. <sup>29</sup> This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup> and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup> and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

<sup>32</sup> I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

<sup>36</sup> If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry — it is no sin. <sup>37</sup> But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. <sup>38</sup> So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

<sup>39</sup> A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. <sup>40</sup> Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Clement of Rome*

**P: Merciful Lord,**

**You who are faithful throughout all generations,  
righteous in Your judgments,  
marvelous in strength and excellence...**

**You who are wise in creating and establishing  
what You have made...**

**You who are good,**

**and faithful toward those who trust in You...**

**You who show pity and compassion...**

**Forgive us our sins, our unrighteousness,  
our transgressions, and our shortcomings.**

**Do not hold us to account for every sin**

**but cleanse us with the cleansing of Your truth.**

**Guide our steps to walk in holiness, righteousness,  
and singleness of heart.**

**Help us to do those things that are good and pleasing  
in Your sight...**

**Through Jesus we ask...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

*Galatians 1:3-5*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins  
to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will  
of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

# SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Come, Ye Sinners*

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity, love, and power.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Let not conscience make you linger,  
nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
is to feel your need of Him.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all.**

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***

***I will arise and go to Jesus!  
He will embrace me in His arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O, there are ten thousand charms.***



# 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

*Exodus 20:1-6*

- <sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying,
- <sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before Me.
- <sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

### 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

*"Worship"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

SERMON NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Proverbs 3:9*

Honor the LORD with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops...

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Our Great God*

**Eternal God, unchanging,  
mysterious and unknown;  
Your boundless love, unfailing,  
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!***

# 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

*Jesus, I Come*

**Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my sickness into Thy health,  
out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,  
out of my sin and into Thyself,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,  
out of life's storms and into Thy calm,  
out of distress into jubilant psalm,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into Thy blessed will to abide,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
out of despair into raptures above,  
upward forever on wings like a dove,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
*Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;*  
into the joy and light of Thy home,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

**Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,  
ever Thy glorious face to behold,  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.*  
*Jesus, I come to Thee.***

Words by William True Sleeper (1887). Music by Greg Thompson (2000).  
Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©2000 Greg Thompson 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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## **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*

**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*