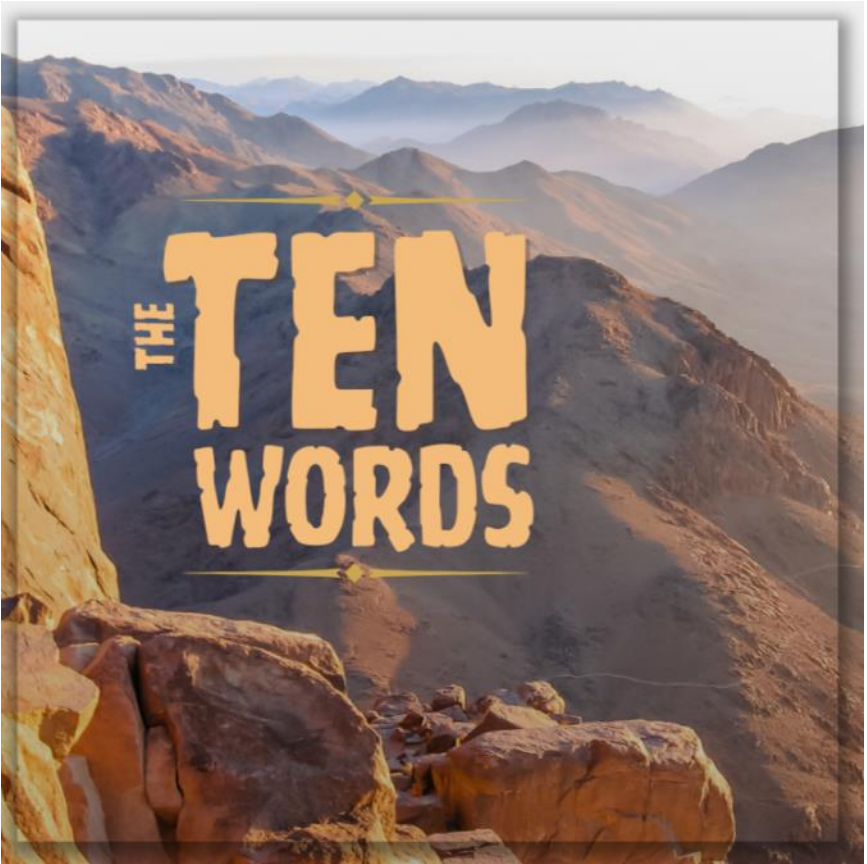




**Ascension** PCA

**January 26, 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

*O greatest, Supreme Creator of things invisible!  
You who are Yourself unseen,  
and who cannot be comprehended!  
You are worthy, you are so worthy...*

*All who breathe and think  
should never cease to feel thankful  
and to give You thanks.*

*You are limitless, unbegotten, immortal, enduring forever.  
You are God Yourself alone, uncontainable,  
of virtues indescribable, of greatness undefinable.  
To understand You, we must be silent.*

~ Arnobius

# 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 8:1,3-4,9*

**P: O LORD, our Lord,**

**how majestic is Your name in all the earth!  
You have set Your glory above the heavens.**

**When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,  
what is man that You are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that You care for him?**

**O LORD, our Lord,**

**how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Only a Holy God*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.**

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God,  
Only my Holy God!**

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

Words and music by Dustin R. Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,  
Rich Thompson.  
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and CityAlight Music

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,  
on this terrestrial ball  
to Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at His feet may fall.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown Him Lord of all!**

Verses 1-2 by Edward Perronet (1779); verse 3 by John Rippon (1787).  
Music by Oliver Holden (1793).  
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.

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.

<sup>2</sup> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one."

<sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords" — <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup> Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of You, and for ignoring Your immensity and greatness.**

**Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that You rule the nations and our small lives.**

**Holy Spirit, we offend You  
in minimizing Your power  
and squandering Your gifts.**

**We confess that our blindness to Your glory,  
O triune God,  
has resulted in shallow confession, lukewarm conviction,  
and mild repentance.**

**Have mercy upon us. Renew a right spirit within us.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. 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

The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.  
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God in Christ,  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*All My Boast is in Jesus*

**What wonder of wonders, what love is this  
that Christ would die for me?  
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness,  
this sinner's only plea.  
O foolish pride, be crucified,  
the work is finished.**

*All my boast is in Jesus.  
All my hope is His love.  
And I will glory forever  
in what the cross has done.*

**Now fully forgiven, my life is filled  
with graces undeserved.  
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill,  
let praises now return.  
Rise up my soul and bless the Lord.  
Who else is worthy?**

*All my boast is in Jesus.  
All my hope is His love.  
And I will glory forever  
in what the cross has done.*

***O praise the One, forever blessed.  
Him alone my heart adores.  
And I will boast in nothing less  
than the love of Christ, my Lord.***

***O praise the One, forever blessed.  
Him alone my heart adores.  
And I will boast in nothing less  
than the love of Christ, my Lord.***

**I boast not in riches, in strength or might,  
but in the grace of God.  
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ  
in plenty or in want.  
That I may know, that all may see  
His pow'r within me.**

***All my boast is in Jesus.  
All my hope is His love.  
And I will glory forever  
in what the cross has done.***

***Now I stand in His freedom,  
ransomed clean in His sight.  
And I cannot be ashamed for  
my boast is Jesus Christ.  
My boast is Jesus Christ forever,  
my boast is Jesus Christ.***

Words and music by Bryan Fowler, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa.  
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Publishing; Messenger Hymns; Be Essential Songs; bryanfowersongs

## **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 20:1-7*

<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.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

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

*“Reverence”*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Psalm 96:8-9*

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, and come into His courts!  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before Him, all the earth!

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

**Let us love and sing and wonder,  
let us praise the Savior's name!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has brought us nigh to God.**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
pitied us when enemies,  
called us by His grace and taught us,  
gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
He has washed us with his blood,  
He presents our souls to God.**

**Let us wonder; grace and justice  
join and point to mercy's store;  
when thro' grace in Christ our trust is,  
justice smiles and asks no more:  
He who washed us with His blood  
has secured our way to God.**

**Let us praise, and join the chorus  
of the saints enthroned on high;  
here they trusted Him before us,  
now their praises fill the sky:  
"You have washed us with Your blood;  
You are worthy, Lamb of God!"**

Words by John Newton (1774, mod.).  
Music from *Darmstadt Gesangbuch* (1698)  
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

*from the Belgic Confession, Art. 35*

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ has ordained and instituted this Holy Supper to nourish and sustain those who are born again and grafted into His family:  
His church.

Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body  
and wine as the sacrament of His blood.

**P: Just as truly as we take and hold the sacraments  
in our hands  
and eat and drink them in our mouths,  
by which our life is then sustained,  
so truly we receive into our souls,  
for our spiritual life,  
the true body and true blood of Christ,  
our only Savior.  
We receive these by faith,  
which is the hand and mouth of our souls.**

M: This banquet is a spiritual table at which Christ communicates Himself to us with all His benefits.

**P: By the use of this holy sacrament  
we are moved to a fervent love of God  
and our neighbors.**

## 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

### *Keep the Feast*

**Joyfully we join You at Your table,  
pleading not our righteousness,  
By Your wealth of mercy we are able  
now to feast in confidence.**

***Take this bread and eat.  
Take this cup and drink.  
Remember how He loved us.  
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Who is fit to feast with such a Savior?  
Who His sandals could untie?  
Who are we that He would show us favor,  
granting us this gift of life?**

***Take this bread and eat.  
Take this cup and drink.  
Remember how He loved us.  
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

**Happy sign of friendship and reunion  
with the blessed Three in One.  
Foretaste of that glorious communion,  
vision of the world to come.**

***Take this bread and eat.  
Take this cup and drink.  
Remember how He loved us.  
Rejoice and keep the feast.  
Remember how He loved us.  
Rejoice and keep the feast.***

Words and music by Skye Peterson and Ben Shive (2024).  
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## 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

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:

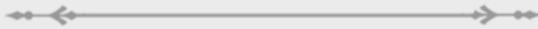
**Anna Hitchcock** [temp]

*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*