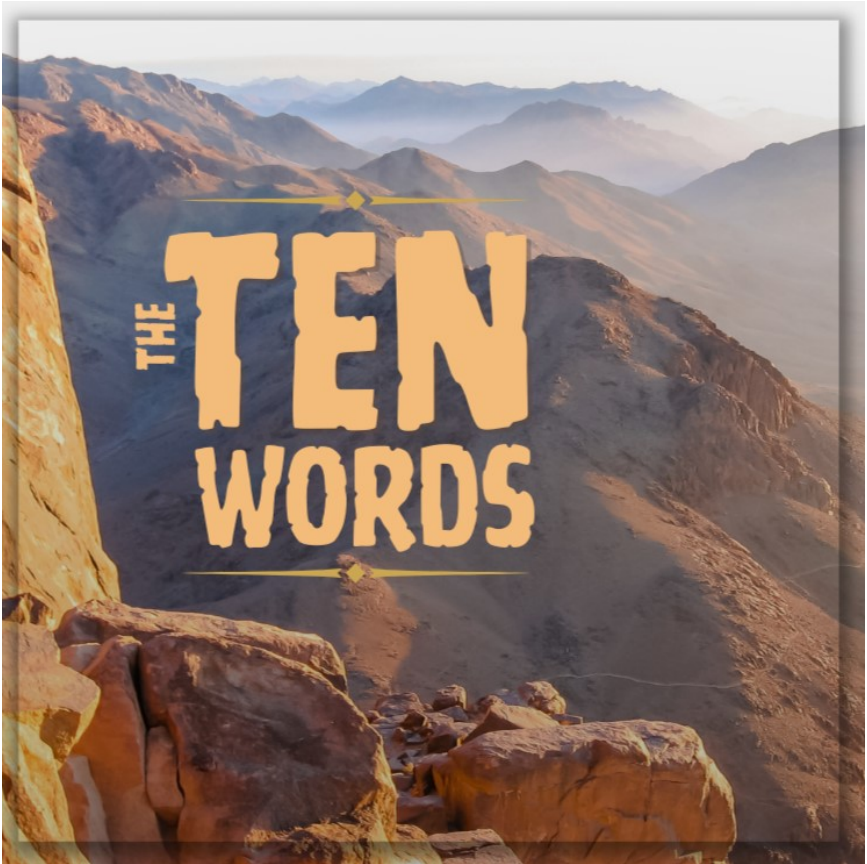




Ascension PCA

March 30, 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

*The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located
will betray us if we trust in them,
it only came through them,
and what came through was a longing...*

*For they are not the thing itself;
they are only the scent of a flower we have not found,
the echo of a tune we have not heard,
news from a country we have never visited.*

*"You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

(Psalm 16:11)

~ C.S. Lewis

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 73:1-3, 16-17, 24-26, 28

M: Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.

**P: You guide me with Your counsel,
and afterward You will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
It is good to be near God;
I have made the LORD God my refuge,
that I may tell of all Your works.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Psalm 89

**Lord, the heavens praise Your wonders,
angels sing Your faithfulness.
For none matches God in heaven,
who's like God in heaven's throng?
God is feared among the angels,
He's more awesome than they all.
Lord, O God of hosts, who's like You?
Mighty God, You're bound with truth.**

**You rule o'er the sea's proud surging;
when its waves rise, bid them still.
You rule nations, they do Your bidding;
Your strong arm disperses foes.
Yours the heavens, earth's bounds also;
You have founded all the world.
North and south You have created;
all creation sings Your praise.**

**You've an arm that's great in power;
Your strong hand is all supreme.
Your rule's based on right and justice,
cov'nant love and truth are Yours.**

**They are happy who acclaim You;
in Your favor, Lord, they walk.
In Your Name rejoicing ever;
in Your righteousness raised high.**

Words from *The Trinity Psalter*. Music by Ludwig Van Beethoven (1824).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Glorious and Mighty

**Majesty, Your glory is shining
brighter than the moon and the stars.
Marveling, we honor and fear You
above all gods.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, You fashioned the heavens,
Your decrees can never be changed.
Over all the plans of the nations,
Your judgments reign.**

*Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!*

**Majesty, we'll sing with creation
when You come again in the clouds.
Every knee will bow down and worship
the one true God.**

***Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty.
Joyful songs we raise!
Glorious and mighty,
You're awesome in beauty,
greatly to be praised!***

Words by Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.
Music by Joel Sczebel, Todd Twining.
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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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Elder Brian Walsh

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became

a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: O Lord, You have promised to deliver us;
and have purchased our salvation through Jesus.
You have promised to restore and guide us;
and have given us Your Spirit as our Counselor
and Your Word as our instruction.
You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us —
to be more faithful than a mother to her child...
Yet we have failed to trust You.
We have grumbled at hardship.
We have pursued and worried about material needs,
as if we had no Father.
We have busied ourselves with things of this world,
while neglecting your treasures entrusted to our care.
Lord, have mercy on us;
forgive our faithless striving
forgive our unfaithful neglect.
Renew in us a desire to be true to You,
and diligence for the long faithfulness.
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

Ephesians 1:7-8 & Isaiah 12:1-2

**M: In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches
of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom
and understanding.**

**P: We will praise you, O Lord.
Although You were angry with us,
Your anger has turned away and You have comforted us.
Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh

unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,

then sin and death will be destroyed,

and we will feast in endless joy,

when Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

***O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.***

Words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns

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 20:17 & Philippians 4:9-13, 19-20

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet
your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant,
or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me —
practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived
your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you
had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need,
for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.
In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing
plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things
through him who strengthens me.

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to
His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father
be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

GIVING TO THE LORD

Psalm 50:12,14

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are Mine."

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High.

SONG OF RESPONSE

All I Have Is Christ

**I once was lost in darkest night,
yet thought I knew the way;
the sin that promised joy and life
had led me to the grave.**

**I had no hope that You would own,
a rebel to Your will,
and if You had not loved me first,
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,
indifferent to the cost,
You looked upon my helpless state
and led me to the cross.**

**And I beheld God's love displayed,
You suffered in my place,
You bore the wrath reserved for me,
now all I know is grace!**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,
and live so all might see
the strength to follow Your commands
could never come from me.**

**Oh Father use my ransomed life
in any way You choose,
and let my song forever be:
my only boast is You.**

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ.
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!***

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Wesley Andrew Hitchcock

Do you acknowledge Wesley's need
of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ
and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you acknowledge that although he is
conceived and born in sin,
and therefore is subject to condemnation,
he, as a child of believers,
being born within the covenant community,
is set apart in Christ,
and as a member of His visible church,
ought to be baptized?

Do you realize that this sacrament
does not give salvation to him,
but he must, by God's grace,
come to faith, repentance, and obedience
when he reaches the age of discretion?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf
and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ
for his salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you realize that in this sacrament you, as parents,
are covenanting with God to raise Wesley
in the instruction and discipline of the Lord?

And do you now acknowledge that he belongs to God,
and promise, in humble reliance upon His help and grace,
to set before him a godly example,
to pray with and for him,
to teach him the doctrines of the gospel
and of our holy religion,
and to strive by all the means that God has appointed,
to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

To the Body of Christ: (please stand)

M: Do you as a congregation promise to undertake
the responsibility of encouraging, praying for, and as
God gives you opportunity, assisting Drew and Asha
in the Christian nurture of this child?

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

*based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28;
1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13 & Romans 8*

**P: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures,
that He was buried,
that He was raised on the third day,
and that He appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.**

**Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God.**

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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;
more than all in Thee 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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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

Garret Holt

garret@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 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*