



# Ascension PCA

June 8, 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 Lord, I bless You that the issue of the battle  
between Yourself and Satan has never been uncertain,  
and will end in victory.*

*Calvary broke the dragon's head,  
and I contend with a vanquished foe,  
who with all his subtlety and strength  
has already been overcome.*

*When I feel the serpent at my heel  
may I remember Him whose heel was bruised,  
but who, when bruised, broke the devil's head.*

***My soul with inward joy extols the mighty Conqueror!***

*~ 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

*from Hebrews 4, Exodus 34, Ephesians 2, 1 Peter 1*

M: Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy.

**P: We approach the LORD,  
the compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,  
maintaining love to thousands,  
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.**

M: God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ  
even when we were dead in our trespasses.

**P: In His great mercy He has given us new birth  
into a living hope.**

M: So as a church family we worship Him saying,

**P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
He has demonstrated the riches of His mercy to us.  
Praise be to the merciful God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

**Crown Him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own,  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of Him who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
and lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love;  
behold His hands and side:  
rich wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends each burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1851) and Godfrey Thring (1874).  
Music by George Job Elvey (1868).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *The Church's One Foundation*

**The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
by water and the Word:  
from heav'n He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O, happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with Thee.**

Words by Samuel J. Stone (1866). Music by Samuel S. Wesley (1864).  
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.

## OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

*Isaiah 59:16b–20*

*Elder C.J. DeGroot*

- <sup>16</sup> ... His own arm brought Him salvation,  
and His righteousness upheld Him.
- <sup>17</sup> He put on righteousness as a breastplate,  
and a helmet of salvation on His head;  
He put on garments of vengeance for clothing,  
and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak.
- <sup>18</sup> According to their deeds, so will He repay,  
wrath to His adversaries, repayment to His enemies;  
to the coastlands He will render repayment.
- <sup>19</sup> So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west,  
and His glory from the rising of the sun;  
for He will come like a rushing stream,  
which the wind of the LORD drives.

20 "And a Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,"  
declares the LORD.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,  
who of Your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins  
to those who with repentance and true faith turn to You:  
have mercy on us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

*Colossians 1:12-14*

Give thanks to the Father who has qualified you  
to share in the inheritance of the saints  
in the kingdom of light.  
For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*His Mercy is More*

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

**What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

***Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!***

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
© 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies  
Publishing, 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

*Ephesians 6:10–20*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making



supplication for all the saints,<sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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

## *"Fit for Battle"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

[illegible]

## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Matthew 10:8*

Freely you have received, freely give.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*Blessed Be Your Name*

**Blessed be Your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where Your streams of abundance flow,  
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**Blessed be Your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness,  
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**Blessed be Your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's "all as it should be,"  
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**Blessed be Your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll  
turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:**

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."***

***"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name."***

**You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say:  
*"Lord, blessed be Your name."***

**You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say:  
*"Lord, blessed be Your name."***

Words and music by Beth Redman and Matt Redman.  
© 2002 Thankyou Music Ltd

## **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.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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

### *There Is A Fountain*

There is a fountain filled with blood,  
drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
lose all their guilty stains:  
lose all their guilty stains,  
lose all their guilty stains;  
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
that fountain in his day;  
and there have I, as vile as he,  
washed all my sins away:  
washed all my sins away,  
washed all my sins away;  
and there have I, as vile as he,  
washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
shall never lose its pow'r,  
till all the ransomed Church of God  
be saved, to sin no more:  
be saved, to sin no more,  
be saved, to sin no more;  
till all the ransomed Church of God  
be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
redeeming love has been my theme,  
and shall be till I die:  
and shall be till I die,  
and shall be till I die;  
redeeming love has been my theme,  
and shall be till I die.

When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue  
lies silent in the grave:  
then in a nobler, sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save,  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;  
then in a nobler, sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

**There is a fountain filled with blood,  
drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
lose all their guilty stains.**

Words by William Cowper (1771; Mod.).

Music by Edwin Othello Excell and Lowell Mason (1830).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 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

Song lyrics reproduced by permission: **CCL#11181050**

Scripture text from

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

©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Holy Bible, **New International Version**®, NIV®

Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## **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 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*