



# Ascension PCA

December 7, 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**

It was love, mere love; it was free love  
that brought the Lord Jesus Christ into our world...  
let us celebrate and keep this festival of our church  
with joy in our hearts:  
let the birth of a Redeemer,  
which redeemed us from sin, from wrath,  
from death, from hell,  
be always remembered;  
may this Savior's love never be forgotten!  
But may we sing forth all His love and glory  
as long as life shall last here,  
and through an endless eternity in the world above!  
May we chant forth the wonders of redeeming love  
and the riches of free grace,  
amidst angels and archangels,  
cherubim and seraphim,  
without intermission, forever and ever!

*~ George Whitefield*

# 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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Jesus, Son of the living God,  
splendor of the Father, eternal Light.

**P: Lord, we praise You!**

M: Jesus, King of Glory, Sun of Righteousness,  
Son of the virgin Mary.

**P: Lord, we praise You!**

M: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord,  
Prince of Peace.

**P: Lord, we praise You!**

M: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and refuge.

**P: Lord, we praise You!**

M: Jesus, Good Shepherd, true Light, our way and our life.

**P: Lord, we praise You! Amen.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Joy to the World!*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room.  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ.  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness.  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.**

Words by Isaac Watts (1719).

Music by George Friedrich Händel (1742), arr. by Lowell Mason (1836).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

### *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

***Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light.**

***Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising  
to th'eternal Three in One.**

***Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

***Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

Words by James Montgomery (1816, 1825).

Music by Henry T. Smart (1867).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by Thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Wisdom, from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and cause us in her ways to go.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Latin Hymn (1710), translated by John Mason Neale (1851).

Music: Plainsong (13th century).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Isaiah 11:1-5*

- <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what His eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what His ears hear,

- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips He shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

### *John 15:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

## 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.

### CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**P: Great and glorious God,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior  
You have shown us that the blessed age  
of grace has appeared  
and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.  
Yet we confess that we too often cling to  
the glories of the present age;  
worldly passions and pursuits,  
self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.  
We choose to walk in darkness,  
unwilling to see the evil that Your light exposes.**

**Cleanse us and free us;  
break the yoke we choose to carry  
through Christ, who gave Himself for us,  
so that we might be Your people,  
holy and whole. 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 GOOD NEWS**

*from Romans 3:22; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21*

- L:** Righteousness from God comes through  
faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
- P:** **By faith we have a deep-rooted assurance,  
created in us by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,  
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,  
not only others, but we too,  
have had our sins forgiven,  
have been made forever right with God,  
and have been granted salvation.**

## **SONG OF ASSURANCE**

*Light of the World*

**Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,  
brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.  
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,  
shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.**

**Light of the World, from the beginning  
the tragedies of time were no match for Your love.  
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.  
God, You entered in and became one of us.**

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.*

**Light of the world, crown in a manger,  
born for the cross, to suffer, to save.  
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.  
We are the richer by the price that He paid.**



***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

**Light of the World, soon will be coming.  
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory,  
and there He shall reign forevermore.**

***Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,  
sing hallelujah for the things He has done!  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World.***

Words & music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash,  
Martin Cash, Scott Cash  
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Scott Cash Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music

## 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

*Luke 1:5–25, 39–45*

<sup>5</sup> In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

<sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

<sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup> and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

<sup>18</sup> And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

<sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

<sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.

<sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

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

*"Ordinary Faithfulness, Extraordinary Joy"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

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## PRAYER

## GIVING TO THE LORD

*Today is the monthly offering for our Deacon Fund and Mercy Ministries.*

O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things for us,  
and holy is Your Name. Bless all we offer You —  
ourselves, our time, and our possessions — that through us  
Your grace and favor may be known to all the world,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## 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

*from the Belgic Confession, art.18*

**P: We profess that God fulfilled the promise  
that He had made to the early fathers  
by the mouth of his holy prophets  
when He sent his only and eternal Son into the world  
at the time set by Him.**

**The Son took the "form of a servant"  
and was made in the "likeness of man,"  
truly assuming a real human nature,  
with all its weaknesses, except for sin;  
being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
without male participation.**

**And He not only assumed human nature  
as far as the body is concerned  
but also a real human soul,  
in order that He might be a real human being.  
For since the soul had been lost as well as the body,  
He had to assume them both to save them both together.  
In this way He is truly our Immanuel —  
that is: "God with us."**

## 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.*

## PRAYER | MEDITATION

## 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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## **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**

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ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**9:00AM: Discipleship Hour**

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

**Meeting Address:** 8224 220<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

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**APC Office:** Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM–5:00PM)  
(425) 286-8617 *office@ascension-pca.org*