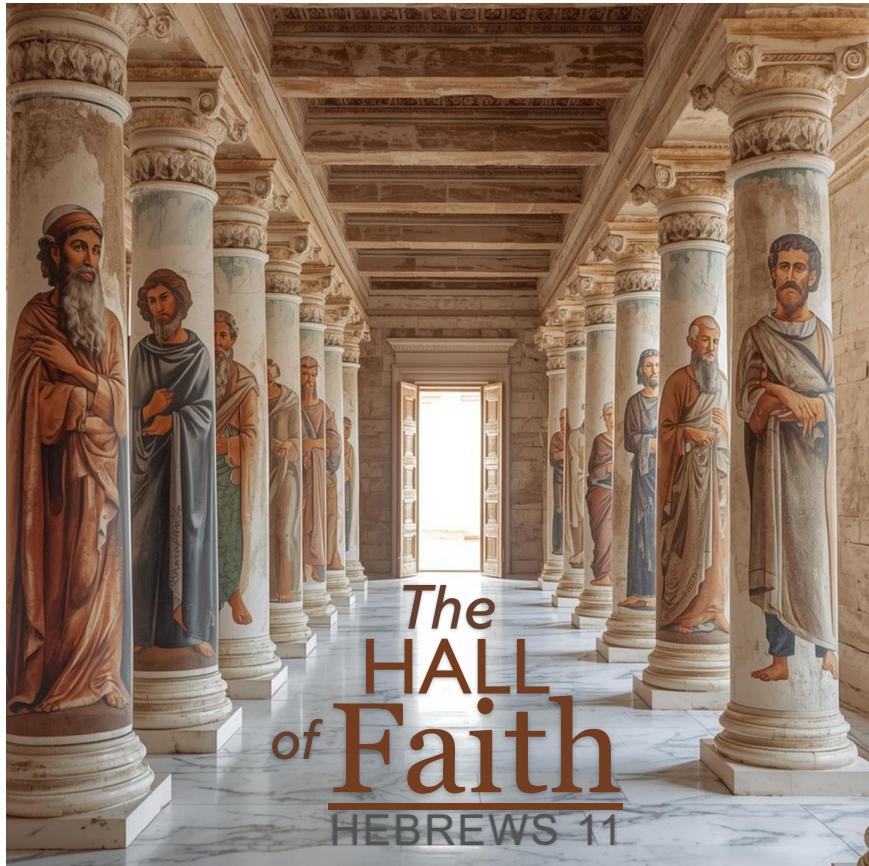




February 1, 2026



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!

Feel free to sit up front where your child can more easily see and hear what is happening.

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.

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

Blessed be the Lord for another day of mercy,
even though I am now weary with its toils.
To the preserver of humankind I lift up my song of gratitude.
The dove found no rest out of the ark,
and therefore returned to it;
similarly, my soul has learned more fully than ever today
that there is no satisfaction to be found in earthly things —
God alone can give rest to my spirit.

Lord, I present You my grateful acknowledgments
for tender mercies which have been new every morning
and fresh every evening;
and now, I pray You, put forth Your hand
and take Your dove into Your bosom.

~ *Charles Spurgeon*

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

Psalm 90:1-2,12,14

M: LORD, You have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.**

**Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;**

**We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.**

**All praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Words by Walter Chambers Smith (1867).
Traditional Welsh hymn melody.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

There is a Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known;
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
will one day come.**

**Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace.
Salvation comes.**

***Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rrous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.***

***All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.***

**And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honor Him in perfect song
where we belong.**

**He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him.**

***Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rrous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.***

***All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever ...***

***... Hear heaven's voices sing.
Their thund'rrous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.***

***All glory, wisdom, pow'r!
Strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high,
forever more.***

GOD CLEANSES 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

Psalm 104:16-35

Elder Philip Suh

- 16 The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.
- 17 In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
- 18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.
- 19 He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
- 20 You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
- 21 The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
- 22 When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.
- 23 Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.
- 24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom have You made them all;
the earth is full of Your creatures.
- 25 Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
- 26 There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which You formed to play in it.
- 27 These all look to You,
to give them their food in due season.
- 28 When You give it to them, they gather it up;
when You open your hand,
they are filled with good things.
- 29 When You hide your face, they are dismayed;
when You take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
- 30 When You send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and You renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
 may the LORD rejoice in His works,
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains and they smoke!
³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
 for I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
 and let the wicked be no more!
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
Praise the LORD!

CORPORATE CONFESSON OF SIN

**P: O God, the Father of lights, the Giver of all good things,
 with Whom there is no variableness
 nor shadow of turning,
 look in mercy upon us, Your children.**

**Direct the eyes of our faith to You,
 that we may know You more
 through Your Word and by Your Spirit,
 that we might walk in Your ways
 amidst the shadows of this life.**

**Forgive our sins
and give us such a vision of the truth in Jesus,
 that darkness may be driven from our hearts,
 and that we may render unto You songs of praise
 through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSON 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

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
 to all who turn to God in hope,
 this is God's Word of grace:

In Jesus, you are accepted, you are forgiven, you are loved.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
precious Redeemer, and Friend.**

**Who would have thought that a Lamb could
rescue the souls of men?**

Oh, you rescue the souls of men.

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace.**

**You offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way.**

Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.***

***You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

**Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own.**

**Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne.**

Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.***

***You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

***You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.***

***You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.***

Words and music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse.
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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

Hebrews 11:1-3 & Genesis 1:1-5

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

"The First Story"

Pastor Nate Hitchcock

SERMON NOTES: _____

PRAYER

GIVING TO THE LORD

TODAY IS THE MONTHLY OFFERING FOR OUR DEACON FUND AND MERCY MINISTRIES.

1 Chronicles 29:14b

All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

This Is My Father's World

**This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings and around me rings
the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas —
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world:
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied
and earth and heav'n be one.**

Words by Maltbie D. Babcock (1901).

Traditional English melody; arr. by Franklin L. Sheppard (1915).

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.

EUCARISTIC 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, Strong and Kind

**Jesus said that if I thirst,
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy,
I should come to Him.**

**Jesus said if I am weak,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength,
I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said that if I fear,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield.
I should come to Him.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

**Jesus said if I am lost,
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross,
He will come to me.**

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

Words and music by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Colin Buchanan.
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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

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

NURSERY COORDINATOR:

Anna Hitchcock [temp]

hitchcrew@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR:

Monica Sledge

cmkesledge@gmail.com

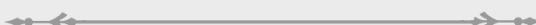
MEAL COORDINATORS:

Sheila Bloedow

s.bloedow@comcast.net

Colette Hudson

colette.hudson@gmail.com



ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

9:00AM: **Discipleship Hour**

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*