



# Ascension PCA

March 22, 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**

*God reveals His presence: let us now adore Him,  
and with awe appear before Him.*

*God is in His temple: all within keep silence,  
prostrate lie with the deepest reverence.*

*Him alone, God we own,*

*Him our God and Saviour:*

*Praise His Name for ever!*

*O Thou Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
trusting only in Thy merit:*

*like the holy angels who behold Thy glory,  
may I ceaselessly adore Thee.*

*Let Thy will, ever still,*

*rule Thy Church terrestrial,  
as the hosts celestial.*

*~ Gerhard Tersteegen*

# 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

*Jeremiah 10:6-7*

M: There is none like you, O LORD;  
You are great, and Your name is great in might.  
Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?  
For this is Your due;  
for among all the wise ones of the nations  
and in all their kingdoms  
there is none like You.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of Thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
seal it for Thy courts above.**

Words by Robert Robinson (1758)  
Music by John Wyeth (1813).  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Across the Lands*

**You're the Word of God the Father  
from before the world began;  
Every star and every planet  
has been fashioned by Your hand.**

**All creation holds together  
by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory;  
let the land and seas rejoice!**

*You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**Yet You left the gaze of angels,  
came to seek and save the lost,  
and exchanged the joy of heaven  
for the anguish of a cross.**

**With a prayer You fed the hungry,  
with a word You calmed the sea.  
Yet how silently You suffered,  
that the guilty may go free.**

*You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

**With a shout You rose victorious,  
wresting vict'ry from the grave,  
and ascended into heaven,  
leading captives in Your way.**

**Now You stand before the Father,  
interceding for Your own.  
From each tribe and tongue and nation  
You are leading sinners home.**

***You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.  
You're the Author of creation,  
You're the Lord of every man,  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
© 2002 Thankyou Music

*Come, Holy One*

**Hasten now, O loving Lord, to us ...  
we're thirsty.**

**Fill these souls, Spirit, every hour ...  
we need Thee.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

**Lead us on the perfect path, O Lord,  
and may we ...  
... sin no more — this spotless bride, the Church,  
is Yours.**

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

***Come, come Holy One, come meet us.  
All, all for Your glory... Lord Jesus.***

Words and music by Eric J. Marshall.  
© 2016 Scot Family Reunion Songs (BMI)

## **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

*Psalms 107:21-43*

*Elder Rich Rios*

- 21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for His wondrous works to the children of man!  
22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!
- 23 Some went down to the sea in ships,  
doing business on the great waters;  
24 they saw the deeds of the LORD,  
His wondrous works in the deep.  
25 For He commanded and raised the stormy wind,  
which lifted up the waves of the sea.  
26 They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;  
their courage melted away in their evil plight;  
27 they reeled and staggered like drunken men  
and were at their wits' end.
- 28 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and He delivered them from their distress.  
29 He made the storm be still,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.  
30 Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,  
and He brought them to their desired haven.
- 31 Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,  
for His wondrous works to the children of man!  
32 Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,  
and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.
- 33 He turns rivers into a desert,  
springs of water into thirsty ground,  
34 a fruitful land into a salty waste,  
because of the evil of its inhabitants.  
35 He turns a desert into pools of water,  
a parched land into springs of water.  
36 And there He lets the hungry dwell,  
and they establish a city to live in;  
37 they sow fields and plant vineyards  
and get a fruitful yield.
- 38 By His blessing they multiply greatly,  
and He does not let their livestock diminish.
- 39 When they are diminished and brought low  
through oppression, evil, and sorrow,  
40 He pours contempt on princes  
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;  
41 but He raises up the needy out of affliction  
and makes their families like flocks.  
42 The upright see it and are glad,  
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.
- 43 Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;  
let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from Daniel 9*

**P: Lord, You are righteous, but we are not —  
for we have sinned against You.**

**We have not obeyed the LORD our God  
or kept the laws You gave us  
through Your servants the prophets.**

**O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive!**

**O Lord, hear and act!**

**We do not ask this of You because we are righteous,  
but because of Your great mercy.**

**For Your sake, O God, do not delay,  
because Your people bear Your Name.**

## 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 PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

*from Revelation 1:5-6*

**L: Christ Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins  
by His blood,  
He has made us to be a kingdom and priests  
to serve His God and Father.**

**P: To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Psalms 42*

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God.  
I will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God.  
I will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

**Morning by morning, new mercies are streaming.  
I trust in Your goodness where I cannot see.  
You have been faithful whenever I wandered.  
Lord, give me the hope that I need.**

**Morning by morning, new mercies are streaming.  
I trust in Your goodness where I cannot see.  
You have been faithful whenever I wandered.  
Lord, give me the grace that I need.**

***Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
I will praise Him yet, praise Him again.***

**Why my soul are you downcast?  
Why are you troubled within?  
For I will hope in my Saviour, my God  
and will praise Him, yet praise Him again.**

Words and music by Jonny Robinson & Tiarne Tranter.  
© CityAlight 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

*Exodus 1:22-2:10, 3:1-8, 12:1-13 & Hebrews 11:23-28*

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

<sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

<sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said,

"This is one of the Hebrews' children." <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

<sup>3</sup> Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites."

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup> Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt."

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

## 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

*"Faith and the Way of Christ"*

*Pastor Nate Hitchcock*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## GIVING TO THE LORD

*1 Timothy 6:17*

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who provides us with everything to enjoy.

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed*

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed,  
and did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
for such a worm as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
and love beyond degree!**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood  
so pure and undefiled,  
to make a sinful one like me  
Your chosen precious child?***

**Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
and shut His glories in,  
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died,  
for man, the creature's, sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while His dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt my eyes to tears.**

***My God, why would You shed Your blood  
so pure and undefiled,  
to make a sinful one like me  
Your chosen precious child?***

Words by Isaac Watts (1707);  
additional words and music by Bob Kauflin (1997).  
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)

# 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

*Belgic Confession, Article 20*

**P: We believe that God —**

**who is perfectly merciful and also very just —  
sent His Son to assume the nature  
in which the disobedience had been committed,  
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin  
by His most bitter passion and death.**

**So God made known His justice toward His Son,  
who was charged with our sin,  
and He poured out His goodness and mercy on us,  
who are guilty and worthy of damnation,  
giving to us His Son to die,  
by a most perfect love,  
and raising Him to life for our justification,  
in order that by Him we might have  
immortality and eternal life.**

## 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

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from Thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleansing me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to Thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to Thee for dress;  
helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee.**

Words by Augustus Montague Toplady (1776);  
altered by Thomas Cotterill (1815).

Music by James Ward (1985).

Words: PUBLIC DOMAIN. Music: ©1985 James Ward Music

## 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*

RULING ELDERS:

**C.J. DeGroot**

*cjdegroot@ascension-pca.org*

**Rich Rios**

*rich@ascension-pca.org*

**Philip Suh**

*philipsuh@ascension-pca.org*

**Theo Vander Wel**

*theo@ascension-pca.org*

**Brian Walsh**

*brian@ascension-pca.org*

DEACONS:

**Bob Briest**

*bob\_briest@ascension-pca.org*

**Garret Holt**

*garret@ascension-pca.org*

**Bill Park**

*bill@ascension-pca.org*

**Mike Wheeler**

*mike@ascension-pca.org*

TREASURER:

**Jason Rutherford**

*jason@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*

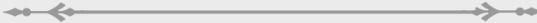
MEAL COORDINATORS:

**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 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*