

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany : 4 February A.D. 2018

Trust in the Slow Work of God

by Pierre Chardin

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was a French philosopher and Jesuit priest. This poem speaks to the sometimes excruciating experience of waiting on God. Do you find yourself often impatient, struggling to trust that God's ways are higher than your wishes? Take a few minutes to reflect upon the wisdom Chardin shares here.

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made
by passing through some stages of instability
and that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on
as though you could be today what time
-- that is to say, grace --
and circumstances
-- acting on your own good will --
will make you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.

Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of
feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving vine-dresser. Amen.

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to become "ambassadors of Christ," so we welcome you to this community of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of refuge for parents with restless children is available all morning in the Main Building, in Room 4.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us.

Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter.

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Children's Formation

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. 1 John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Thursday Morning Yoga

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

Book for Wednesday Morning: *Is Christ God?*

We will begin study and discussion of Michael Morwood's book *Is Christ God? Finding Our Faith From Amazon*: "In the new millennium, the most central question is how to understand God and Jesus. This book is an invitation to Christians—and non-Christians—to challenge their inherited notions of how and why Jesus is to be thought of as divine." You can order the book by following this link: <http://amzn.to/2CRGzCs>. Read chapters 5 and 6 for this week's discussion.

Godly Play

The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Leaven. The Parable of the Sower, which is found in all three synoptic gospels, describes Jesus' promise of abundant harvest.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Winter Weather Policy



At Ascension, we always TRY to have church even when the weather is bad. We realize that travelling may be very difficult for some, so please make the best decision for you and your family about Sunday church attendance. Even if we have Sunday services during inclement weather, we may cancel all other activities, such as Christian Formation for Children, Youth and Adults. Volunteer leaders, likewise, should use personal judgment about the safety of their travel that day. Cancellations will be announced by way of e-mail and on the outgoing message line at 301.948.0122.

As a rule, we will follow Montgomery County Public Schools for closing and cancellation decisions. If there is a delayed opening our morning activities are cancelled. If schools are closed, morning and afternoon activities are cancelled. In this event, evening activities still may be scheduled, so check in with the committee chair or call the outgoing message line at the church to check the status of your meeting or activity.

Lost and Found

If you are missing an item, take a look in the Lost and Found bin located by Work room 5. Lost items are due to be recycled on February 9th.

Lenten Bible Study: *Contemplating Colossians*

Contemplation is entering into the realm of spiritual mystery. In the New Testament, the mysterious letter to the Colossians takes up that theme with its claim that we have the mystery of Christ. Over the first five Sundays in Lent, Sister Elena will lead an encounter with this mysterious short text and its theologies of the pre-existence of Christ, invisibility (Harry Potter's not the only one with a cloak!), spiritual power and resurrection. We'll also engage the apparent contradiction with these theologies and their manifestation within an unjust social order. Meets from 10:15 to 10:45 am on five Sundays, February 18 through March 18, in the Undercroft.

Pledge Envelopes

Please don't forget to pickup your pledge envelopes located on the table outside the Parish Office if you haven't done so. If your pledge envelope is not there and you did not pick it up please contact Lin by e-mail at office@ascensionmd.org.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Parish Town Hall Meeting today at 10:15

Meet with Randy and Vestry members for updates and a Q&A session about Ascension's transition.

February 13 is Shrove Tuesday!

That's right, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year! We need a team of people to organize this annual event. Sign the clipboard Randy will be passing around in church if you want to be part of creating this fun event!

Palm Sunday is a 1A Sunday!

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Afterward will be Randy's farewell celebration. Save the date: March 25.

Spirituality and Dementia workshop: February 8

This workshop, led by Janice Hicks (candidate in the deacon formation process in the diocese), is designed to provide information to clergy and all who are interested about spirituality related to dementia along with resources for congregations and families dealing the effects of dementia. \$10 registration fee includes workshop, coffee, lunch and CEU certificate. Thursday, February 8 from 10:00 - 11:30, a.m. at The Village at Rockville (map). Please contact Alice Benson with any questions. To register: <http://bit.ly/2DC0sgx>

Ash Wednesday is February 14



We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station.

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CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

The next program operate on February 18 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. **Please: no perishables.** For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Mobile Med

Mobile Med will not be at Ascension House starting tomorrow January 2nd (until the beginning of March). I have posted signs on the Ascension House bulletin board and on the door to the chapel. Signs list the alternate location as well as a number to contact for more information.

Jean Cohn
spangle1@comcast.net
240.372.3652.

Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2018



164 Pledges for a total of \$368,728

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign this past week:

- ◆ Bubba Pflantzbaum
- ◆ Leonard & Erin Martinko
- ◆ Maura Ryan & Marybeth Daucher
- ◆ Karen Olsen
- ◆ Christian & Marissa Simpson
- ◆ Joyce Thompson
- ◆ Mary Thorpe
- ◆ Amy Van Dalinda
- ◆ Trevor & Angela Walker
- ◆ Paul Boynton
- ◆ Daniel & Linda Yankie
- ◆ Paul Boynton
- ◆ David Burton
- ◆ Major & Hawa Clemens
- ◆ Abraham & Christine Kroma
- ◆ Margaret Mirin
- ◆ Ivan Flores
- ◆ Alfredia W Freeman
- ◆ Matilda Chimbela Muyangwa
- ◆ Lucia Pires
- ◆ Gretchen Horlacher
- ◆ Marybeth Daucher
- ◆ Troyce Holland
- ◆ Lucille Roberson
- ◆ Christian Simpson
- ◆ Christian Nwankwo
- ◆ Victoria Nwankwo
- ◆ Emmanuel Nwankwo

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table outside the office, in the Chapel or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Rector - (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson
ral@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Assistant to the Rector—The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Interim Ministers of Music

9:00 a.m. Clarice Snyder

11:15 a.m. Karina Gomez McCarty

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene

office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu

comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499

mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,
Gary McLaughlin

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~ Facilities: Ted Be-
dell Finance: Howard Holland ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~ Pas-
toral Care: Randy Lord-Wilkinson Personnel: Jean Cohn ~
Worship: Carleton MacDonald

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Kristen Keating, Carleton MacDonald, Sue Snay
Alternate: Mardia Dennis

Cycles of Prayer

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for
Episcopal Relief and Development
The Companion Diocese Committee - Jerusalem
The Committee on the Partnership with the Anglican
Church of Southern Africa

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, February 5

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 4:30 p.m. Maya Collings—Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
- 6:45 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 3243—Room 6
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, February 6

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 4:30 p.m. Maya Collings— Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, February 7

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 5:15 p.m. Maya Collings—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, February 8

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi —Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

Friday, February 9

- 1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. Maya Collings—Main Church

Saturday, February 10

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Sunday, February 11

- Preacher:** Katie Beth
- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
 - 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
 - 10:00 a.m. Latin Choir—Room 1
 - 10:15 a.m. Adult Class —Library
 - 10:15 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
 - 10:15 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
 - 10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel
 - 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
 - 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
 - 12:00 p.m. Carnival Party—Under Croft
 - 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel
 - 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Under Croft

Attendance	January 14	January 21	January 28
7:45 a.m.	20	26	22
9:00 a.m.	84	81	60
10:15 a.m.	6	14	7
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	42	45	45
11:15 am	44	50	62
5:00 p.m.	6	6	6
Total:	202	222	202