

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The First Sunday after Epiphany : 7 January A.D. 2018*

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## Every Creature Is a Word of God

God brought things into being in order that his [sic]goodness might be communicated to creatures, and be represented by them; and because his goodness could not be adequately represented by one creature alone, he produced many and diverse creatures, that what was wanting to one in the representation of the divine goodness might be supplied by another. For goodness, which in God is simple and uniform, in creatures is manifold and divided.

-Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I, 47, 1

Each and every creature is a unique word of God, with its own message, its own metaphor, its own energetic style, its own way of showing forth goodness, beauty, and participation in the Great Mystery. Each creature has its own glow and its own unique glory. To be a contemplative is to be able to see each epiphany, to enjoy it, protect it, and draw upon it for the common good. (Some Sundays I am drawn to awe, prayer, and service by the Nature Channel much more than by the morning church service!)

Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, a speaker at some CAC conferences, writes in true Franciscan style: "The world is created as a means of God's self-revelation so that, like a mirror or footprint, it might lead us to love and praise the Creator. We are created to read the book of creation so that we may know the Author of Life. This book of creation is an expression of who God is and is meant to lead humans to what it signifies, namely, the eternal Trinity of dynamic, self-diffusive love" (Christ in Evolution, p. 62).

Meister Eckhart, OP, says it even more succinctly: "Anyone who truly knows creatures may be excused from listening to sermons, for every creature is full of God, and is a book." And that is from one who was a member of the Order of Preachers!

Adapted from "*Every Creature Is a Word of God*," Radical Grace,  
Vol. 24, No. 2, Spring 2011, p. 3

**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.

There will be no Tai Chi on December 28th. We will resume in January. 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 moved their classroom upstairs to Room 2 (the old nursery). Come and join us in our new setting today after the 9:00 a.m. service.

#### 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](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

#### Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

#### Wednesday Morning Book Group

*Night*, by Elie Weisel, is the next selection. Finish the book in preparation for the group's next meeting on January 10. The group meets weekly in the Library from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

#### Godly Play

Godly Play we study Holy Baptism, the full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. For Christians, this rite is the gateway into the family or families we call the Church. We ask the children to remember or look forward to the day of their baptism by lighting candles from the light of the Christ Candle, since this is also the day they receive their "light".

A note to Parents: On January 14, we will be baking Communion bread for the church. It is a fun and sometimes messy activity, so please dress your children accordingly.

### Special Christmastide Offering

Dear Friends and Members of Ascension:

At its most recent meeting on December 17th, the Vestry voted unanimously to take up a special Christmastide collection to support the cause of Henry Sanchez, whose story is related to us by parish member Lucelia Justiniano, an immigration lawyer.

"Henry Sanchez, whose case obtained national attention when he was falsely accused of raping a girl at Rockville High School, was for a time the "poster child", or scapegoat, for anti-immigrant sentiment around the country.

"All charges against Henry were dismissed. In the process, his father Adolfo was detained by immigration authorities, forcing his two other children (ages 21 and 14) out of their apartment. Adolfo was released from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) custody on a \$20,000 bond (which seems inordinately high since he has no criminal background at all) but the family was able to pull together enough money to pay it through loans from friends.

"After Henry's charges were dismissed, the state released him into ICE custody and now is holding him on a \$40,000 bond which the family is unable to pay. Adolfo's wife (Henry's stepmother) has also struggled greatly with caring for her 9 children since she depended on him to help provide for her children (the youngest 7 living with them are 2, 4, 9, 9, 13, 15, and 21 years old). Henry lived on his own from the age of 14 to 18 when he reunited with his father.

"He has never before been in any trouble with the police here or in his native Guatemala. He endured substantial physical abuse at the hands of his mother while he lived with her in Guatemala and fled Guatemala due to gang threats. There is no doubt that he needs guidance and therapy to overcome his past trauma. However, what he has received so far in this country is downright injustice. Adolfo, Henry, and his two brothers are all currently in deportation proceedings.

"I come across so many devastating stories but I feel like extending a hand to this family will renew their hopes in the U.S.

"Thank you.  
Lucelia R. Justiniano, Esq."

If you want to make a contribution to Henry's fund, you may write a check to 'Ascension' with 'Henry' in the memo line. We realize that this is a controversial project, and so all of us in the leadership circle want to be available to hear your concerns and questions, if you have any. Our pictures and names are in the narthex (and have been for years), so you know who we are!

We are also starting a bit late, but remember that Christmas lasts until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. So if we can have your offering in hand by today we would be most grateful!

Christmastide Blessings!  
The Clergy and Vestry of Ascension

**Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday: Today**

Ascension's annual Epiphany Pageant goes up at 5:00 pm. today, in the context of the weekly Eucharist celebrated at this time. It will take place in the main church.

See you there!

Thanks, Gordon  
vagordon1@yahoo.com

**Ascension Youth Group Jan FY18 and Mission Trip Info****January 7**

NoMoCo- Service Project at Nourish Now.

<http://nourishnow.org/about/>

MUST RSVP

UNUSAL TIME 2 pm- 3:30 pm

UNUSAL LOCATION 1111 Taft Street in Rockville

**January 14**

Regular Ascension Youth Group

6 pm - 8pm Ascension Undercroft

Need dinner volunteers please

**January 28**

Regular Ascension Youth Group

6 pm - 8pm Ascension Undercroft

Need dinner volunteers please

Please email or text us if you can attend this Sunday's service project or if your family can cover dinner one of the evenings. Also-I have dates for our Mission Trip in June. It is June 23rd through June 29th. We will return to Philadelphia and will be going with our Virginia diocese friends.

Finally-thank you all for the coats and winter wear we sent to St. James! We sent them 37 pounds of warm items and they were so grateful!!

Best-  
Angie and Trevor

**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 time the program operates is January 21 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, January 27 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

**PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2018**

123 Pledges for a total of \$285,846

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign these past couple of weeks:

- ◆ Isaac & Josephine Clarke
- ◆ Gina Fera
- ◆ Tom & Denise Lionetti
- ◆ Winsome J Palmer
- ◆ Algernon Thomas
- ◆ Bendu B Toee
- ◆ Kathleen Bainbridge
- ◆ Aloysius & Frances Farrah
- ◆ Barbara Mansfield
- ◆ Peter Maroulis
- ◆ Mabel Olivera
- ◆ Ted & Kelly Bedell
- ◆ Carolyn Dowling/ John Bjerke
- ◆ Terry & Kristin Johnsen
- ◆ Ruby King
- ◆ Chikezie Nwankwo
- ◆ Alice E Padmore
- ◆ Marion Rice
- ◆ Neil & Nathalie Scott
- ◆ Linda G Sye
- ◆ Laura Ann Whirley
- ◆ Robert A Wilkinson
- ◆ Kathryn Froelich
- ◆ Fayemi & Christina Johnson
- ◆ Daisy & Kemal Okudo
- ◆ Kevin Conway
- ◆ Todd & Jennifer Shea

## 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, dotty@pfad@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*  
Howard Holland, *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  
Christ Church, Washington Parish  
Christ Church, Kensington  
Christ Church, Accokeek (St. John's Parish)  
and St. John's Chapel  
Christ Church, Georgetown

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, January 8

11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1  
1:00 p.m. AL-Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church  
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, January 9

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library  
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, January 10

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library  
1:00 p.m. AL-Anon—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

### Thursday, January 11

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, January 12

1:00 p.m. AL Anon—Room 1

### Saturday, January 13

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

### Sunday, January 14

**Preacher:** Randy Lord-Wilkinson  
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  
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist —Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group — Undercroft

Attendance	December 24	December 25	December 31
10:00 a.m.	99	58	161
5:00 p.m.	54	—	—
7:00 p.m.	106	—	—
7:00 p.m. Spanish Service	30	—	—
9:00 p.m.	91	—	—
<b>Total:</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>161</b>