

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 31, A.D. 2019

One of my favorite authors is Dorothy Sayers, best known as a British mystery writer. Her most famous works are the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries- the stories of a stuffy aristocrat who stuck his long nose into a great deal of trouble. Sayers was known for her command of prose and her ability to make text come alive, vividly, as if you were there in the very ashes of the fireplace, picking up pieces of destroyed ivory chessmen and wondering who was out to get you.

One of her lesser known works was a BBC play cycle, *A Man Born to Be King*. No known original cast recordings exist. This radio play traces the life and death of none other than Jesus.

Sayers shocked England with the story she told using contemporary British language with slang and idioms. Women had names and significant speaking roles, far beyond the scripture's text. She felt that Jesus and Judas would have been great friends, which lent additional tragedy to the betrayal.

She was a scholar in her own right, frequently translating from the Greek. Many theologians at the time felt that the only proper way to read scripture was to quote directly from the Bible. Sayers turned this on its head. She gave her characters movement, action, personality.

Because she re-worked translations and frequently wove parables into the action of other stories, Sayers was verbally condemned by some as a heretic, and her play as sacrilegious. How dare a woman, of all people, change the Bible? The idea that Sayers would not only break out of her expected genre, but also create a dramatic play, and also have the chutzpah to do her own public translations on something as sacred as scripture. Yet many others felt the unique text gave life to a dusty story to which they had forgotten how to pay attention.

In the play, the story of the Prodigal Son which is featured this coming Sunday is placed in the context of the visit to Martha and Mary and Lazarus, as Jesus encourages Martha to sit down and rest and visit for a few minutes. He had already told them of the first part of the story, but now tells them the second part, where the elder brother becomes angry and hurt.

This is not how scripture puts those stories together, but what we get to see is Martha and Mary and Jesus in relationship- we get to see the stories told in action, and to hear people reacting to them. It's the best part of scripture- that it is never stagnant. It is constantly heard in ways that are new to each listener.

On 1A Day, our worship will be crafted and led by the Ascension youth. Our service will have at least three languages- English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Isn't it interesting that, here, each of us might have some facility with each, and fluency in one or two? Much like Sayers, we have to re-interpret the story and the action and create new translations that work for the community we are forming and becoming.

The Rev. Betsy Bagioni

Sayers graduated with First Class Honours from Somerville College in Oxford, which is the degree given to women before they were conferred degrees. She was awarded a degree when the custom changed, and also earned an MA.

shameless audacity, impudence

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 "Represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be." We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Peddy Terry, Karyn Anderson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

Please feel free to bring your child.

Shell.

Historically, the season of Lent was when new Christians were prepared for baptism. Jesus began his ministry after his baptism. As someone who has been (or will be baptized) how do you minister? How are you following Jesus? Read the story of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3, Mark 1, or Luke 3) and look at photos of baptisms of family members.

One Ascension Sunday

The Youth group will be leading the One Ascension Sunday. There will be one service for everyone at 10:00 AM. This will be followed by a luncheon in the Undercroft. Come one, come all, to enjoy the Youth group's One Ascension Sunday.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path

The 10:00 Joyful path will learn about Mildred Norman Ryder who answered Jesus's call to leave family and friends and follow him by becoming a "peace Pilgrim". She walked across the United States several times in the 1950's, 60's and 70's teaching people about peace. For this service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

We will use the story of Harriett Tubman's life We will learn willpower using the story of the life and times of Harriett Tubman. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

Godly Play

This week's in Godly Play lessons. The Faces of Easter VI, continue to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week we focus on the face of Christ as he enters Jerusalem and offers the Twelve-and us-the bread and wine.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 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 Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapters 5, 6 & 7 for this coming Wednesday.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is 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 is 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

2019 Lenten Offering (Rice Bowl Recipient)

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. This year the offering will be destined to end hunger.

Ascension Youth Group

- Ascension Youth Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm in the undercroft of the church, unless otherwise noted.
- Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension.
- Typical YG includes dinner, provided by two families, a spiritual lesson and fun games. "Food, Fellowship & Fun"
- The YG meets on April 14 in the Parish Hall.

We need to Update your Information

After the service you will find a tables where we have the 2019 Directories. Please check your information and if there is any change let us know so we can update it. Thank you.

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men. Lunches are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Generous Ascension members donate the supplies. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. Next program is on April 21 Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Immigration Consultations

Lucelia R. Justiniano worked at several immigration law firms as a law clerk assisting clients in removal defense cases and family-based applications before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Lucelia interned at the Executive Office of Immigration Review in Baltimore, Maryland drafting decisions for three of the immigration judges. She also interned at the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Virginia where she worked alongside Board Attorney Advisors in drafting Board decisions. She has been part of Ascension for a long time. She is exceptionally dedicated to giving back to the community. Now, she is offering immigration consultations every first Sunday of the month. If you have question or know anybody who would need some legal advice she will be at the Library on April 7th, from 10:30 to 11:45 AM Contact Lucelia Justiniano at lucelia@jezicfirm.com or Cell phone (240)565-5590

Ascension's Room 2 Renovation

Dear members of Ascension, My name is Matthew Watson. I am a Boy Scout in Troop 207 in Gaithersburg. I am currently working on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. For my service project, I will be renovating Ascension's Room 2 (also known as the Classroom) in March with brand new wooden shelving, building new cubby storage units, and painting the walls. I am seeking donations to help the church pay for supplies for the renovation. Your donation can help make Ascension's Room 2 a more calm, warm, and welcoming environment for both youths and adults. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed day!

Sincerely, Matthew Watson

Connection Hour Bible Study on The Women of the Cross

From the Sundays of Lent from March 17th to April 7th, Reverends Eugene Wright and Nan Hildebrand will facilitate a bible study on the steadfast and courageous women who stayed with Jesus during the hours of his crucifixion. Our study and conversation will be a meditation on the role of their caregiving, prayer and their courageous love which led to their revelatory leadership. Our study will direct our thoughts to the anticipatory joy of Easter. Help yourself to some coffee and a treat at the 9am coffee hour and meet us in the library. Prayer and discussion will be from 9:10am to 9:50 am.

Liberians Temporary Protective status

In the 1990's Liberians were granted Temporary Protective status during the 14 year civil war in their country. This allowed them to stay in this country and not be forced to return to a war torn homeland. Recently President Trump has threatened to end the policy of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), forcing Liberians to return to a country still in turmoil due to the aftermath of a brutal civil war.

Liberians make up an important part of our congregation and community. Therefore we are asking all members of our congregation to contact our President and members of Congress to call for an extension of DED for Liberians. This would involve a quick and easy phone call to the White House at 202-456-1111 and our members of Congress: Representative David Trone at 202-225-2721, and our Senators, Ben Cardin at 202-224-4524 and Chris Van Hollen at 202-224-4654. The message is simple: "Please extend the Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians to a country still in turmoil following the brutal civil war there". We are asked to call the White House between 9am and 3pm. Thanks for your efforts on behalf of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

12-Month Evaluation for Father Javier

It has been 12 months since Javier accepted the position of Priest-in-Charge at Ascension. Therefore, it is time for the second formal evaluation between Father Javier and the Church. This time, the Vestry will start the process by hosting a series of small meetings to review what we've been working on over the last year, progress made, and to answer your questions. Hopefully this information will help you to fill out an honest and complete evaluation for Padre Javier. The first such meeting will be at 9:00 AM Sunday March 31 in Room 1, before the One Ascension Youth Sunday service. More meetings will take place throughout April, times and locations to be announced. For Javier's evaluations, we will still use a paper form that you may fill out and return to the green and gold box in the narthex-same as last time. As before they will be absolutely confidential and used to make Ascension stronger for all of us. Please participate in this important process for Ascension.

Thank you, Betsy Hasegawa

Senior Warden

Midweek Eucharistic Service

The Third Midweek Lenten service had the largest attendance thus far. Thirty four is just above week one, and might be accounted for by two items. First we have the presence of Associate Bishop Chilton. She led a lovely service assisted by our own Nan Hildebrand. The music component was the largest group so far, and their contribution was appreciated by all in attendance. The Bread and Soup component was another home run for the kind volunteers this week. Next week we have Avin Lalmansingh and Wendy Westmoreland bring what promises to be as wonderful as previous weeks. Bread will be provided by Debbie Francis and Laurie Yelle. Come by and partake!

CONTACT US

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

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ☒ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

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

Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo *ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12*

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand *hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13*

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg *music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11*

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene *office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10*

Communications — Jesse Velazquez *comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14*

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard *sari.stoddard@verizon.net*;
Mardia Dennis, *mard908@gmail.com*, Dotty Pfadenhauer, *dottypfa@aol.com* and Georgana Maines, *mainesgnh@verizon.net*

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James A. Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
Personnel: Jean Cohn
Worship: Gary McLaughlin & Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

Passover (March 31-April 7)

Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 4)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, April 1, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. **Spanish Class- Ascension House (Canceled)**
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community - Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

7:00 a.m. **Mobile Med**
11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting—Library**
6:30 p.m. **Ensemble—Main Church**
7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
7:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**
7:30 p.m. **Curso de Oración- Room 2**
7:30 p.m. **Spanish Bible Study—Library**
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

10:00 a.m. **Book Club- Library**
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. **Lenten Soup- Room 2**
7:00 p.m. **Midweek Eucharistic Service—Main Church**
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, April 4, 2019

10:00 a.m. **Yoga—Room 6**
4:00 p.m. **Tai Chi—Chapel**
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, April 5, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program-Library

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia

8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist - Main Church**
9:10 a.m. **Bible Study/ Women of the Cross- Library**
10:00 a.m. **Bible School for 3+ year olds and under - Room 4**
10:00 a.m. **Godly Play- Room 6**
10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist - Main Church**
10:00 a.m. **Joyful Path - Room 2**
10:00 a.m. **St. Barnabas - Chapel**
10:30 a.m. **Immigration Consultations - Library**
12:00 p.m. **Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2**
12:00 p.m. **Holy Eucharist (Spanish) - Main Church**
12:00 p.m. **Pastoral Care - Library**
2:00 p.m. **Vestry Meeting - Room. 1**

Attendance	March 10	March 17	March 24
8:00 am		42	37
10:00 am	134	120	142
12:00 pm		35	35
Total:	134	197	214