



The Third Sunday of Advent

11 December AD 2016

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*
The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*
Jason Cutshall, *Seminarian*
Jerrold Tidwell, *Minister of Music*

Welcome to Ascension!

For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from the table next to the church office door.

We meet for coffee, tea, and snacks in the Narthex after each service.

The Nursery in Room 2 is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Within the service, the people read the parts in **bold** print.

Welcome and Announcements

Gaither 265

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Mom

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

James 5:7-10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
 4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is

1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [11:2-11]
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me." When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. "I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Meditation

Jason Cutshall

The Affirmation of Faith*

You, O God, are supreme and holy,
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
Good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved

Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

*From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, p. 481

The Prayers of the People

Prayers are invited, either silently or aloud. After each spoken prayer, a gong will sound.

Concluding Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gather 252

My Soul in Stillness Waits

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God. For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your unfailing gift of life. We thank you that you make us human, and stay with us even when we turn from you to sin.

**God's love is shown to us:
While we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.**

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord. You make all things new. In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory and reconcile all peoples to yourself, their true and living God.

In your mercy you are now our God. Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you, for you alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and sing:

*From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, p. 467

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Celebrant continues

All glory to you, giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you, and for many, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way, our access to you, Father, and source of all new life. In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. Amen

*As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say:*

Our Father in heaven,
holy is your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

*As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we now pray:*

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the uni-
verse!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

From A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 181

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and a period of silence is kept.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and lives in you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.
The Bread and the Cup are given with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Administration of the Sacrament: All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to the communion station. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion station and cross your arms over the front of your chest - this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed. If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.

Healing Prayers: If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex to the right of the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

When there is a Eucharistic Visitor present

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.

Let us pray.

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in Jesus and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.

Gather 494

Anthem

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Martha Lubet, Fran Spina, Monica Koenig Caphart, Lou and Janet Spenser, Sandy Boynton
Diane Goldman, Sarah Rubin, Joann Gertig, Roz Silver-Marcotte and all those
who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for refugees and all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

We give thanks for the life of Marilyn Whitmore, in whose memory the altar flower was given by Paul Whitmore.

PERMISSIONS *Sanctus*. Music: Mass of Remembrance, Marty Haugen. Copyright © 1987, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-715039.

Scripture taken from the Common English Bible®, CEB® Copyright © 2010, 2011 by Common English Bible.™
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Worship Leaders

		This Week	Next Week
Reader:	7:45 am	Enid Cole	Leslie Sanya
	9:00 am	Alvaro Gonzalez Marsha Sutherland	Andrew Greene Suzyn Gonzalez
	11:15 am	Alex Langley	Anne Brink
Prayers:	7:45 am	Enid Cole	Leslie Sanya
	9:00 am	Barbara Mansfield	Betsy Hasegawa
Chalicians:	7:45 am	Leslie Sanya Wadai Dennis	Jason Cutshall Sharon Hayden
	9:00 am	Margaret Tellu Dotty Pfadenhauer	Nancy Carman Cynthia Perley
	11:15 am	Rimie Siard	Peg Ruppel
Healing Prayer Ministers:			
	7:45 am	Lisa Murdock	Meredith Horan
	9:00 am	Susan McLaughlin	Major Clemens
	11:15 am	Ped Ruppel	Jason Cutshall
Acolytes:	7:45 am	Ron Hayden Aidan Douglas	Raymond Chin Aidan Douglas
	9:00 am	Richard McFarland Sari Stoddard Gary McLaughlin	Alfred Waskiye Manny Johnson Nuelle Johnson
Welcome Team:			
	7:45 am	Meredith Horan Florence Sirleaf	Herald Douglas Lisa Murdock
	9:00 am	Esther Allotey-Taylor Bev Stennett Christine Kroma Josephine Clarke	Dorett Sutherland James Black Jonathan Black
	11:15 am	Sciou Broderick Peedy Terry Emmanuel Nwankwo	Avin Lalmansingh Karl Didavi Clark Didavi
Flower Delivery:		Alice Padmore Esther Sawyer	Adome Baffoe Hawa Clemens
Altar Guild:	7:45 am	Enid Cole Mardia Dennis	Leslie Sanga Wadai Dennis
	9:00 am	Dorett Sutherland Adoma Baffoe Dotty Pfadenhauer	Nancy Carman Cynthia Perley Liz Lennon
	11:15 am	Anika Lalmansingh	Laura Shay
Weekly Altar Guild Team:		9:00am Team	11:15 Team
Eucharistic Visitor:		Pamela Irons-Forth	Randy Lord-Wilkinson
Song Leader	11:15 am	Betsy Hasegawa	Sue Snay
Hospitality Angels	7:45 am	David Burton	Yvonne Lartey
	9:00 am	Michelle Wood	Nathalie Scott
	11:15 a,m	Mary Layen-Brizan	Rose Buck

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Clergy

The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*
The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*
Jason Cutshall, *Seminarian*

Musicians

Jerrold Tidwell, *Minister of Music*
Howard Hanson, *Musician, Service for Families with Small Children at 10:15 a.m.*
Samuel Munguia, *Musician, Spanish Language Service at 11:00 a.m.*
Eric O'Loughlin, *Musician, 5:00 p.m. Service*

Wardens

Betsy Hasegawa, *Senior Warden*
Janet King, *Junior Warden*

Vestry

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore
2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin
2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

Ministry Area Leaders

Zadinga Ogada, *Christian Formation for Children*
Angie Hight-Walker, *Christian Formation for Youth*
Ted Bedell, *Facilities*
Howard Holland, *Finance*
Paul Boynton, *Mission*
Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Pastoral Care*
Jean Cohn, *Personnel*
Carleton MacDonald, *Worship*

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

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

Staff

Kathy Van Arnum, *Parish Administrator*
Eleni Hailu, *Media Specialist*
Brenda Alvarez, *Nursery Attendant*

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
205 South Summit Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301.948.0122 www.ascensionmd.org

