



# This Week at Ascension

## The Art of Longing

[Link to Service Leaflets for January 8](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon "The Anonymous Christian"](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)

Longing is a way we humans connect and commune with a reality that doesn't yet exist. It is a species of hope. And hope is a kind of faith, as the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews wrote: "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, of things not seen."

Longing engages the soul, the heart, the center, of a person. It's more than a fantasy of what is to come. It is rather a profound desire that connects us with the one who is to come and in fact makes that one present to us in some mysterious way. We often say that absence makes the heart grow fonder, when we talk about being separated from someone we love. Our hope that we will see them again soon is enflamed by the experience of separation and the anticipation that we will once again be together.

In that experience of absence and separation we commune with the object of our longing. Some say that the presence of God is felt most authentically in the experience of God's absence. In a time of perceived separation the longing for reunion keeps the relationship alive, until a new epiphany of the long expected one fills us with joy and gratitude.

May God surprise you by meeting you in your deepest longing.

Peace,

Randy

## Calendar Highlights

### Friday, January 6

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program - Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Movie Night - UC

### Saturday, January 7

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

### Sunday, January 8

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 11
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol - Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Baptism - Karvar
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church

## HEADLINERS

- [The King's Birthday](#)
- [Annual Giving Campaign extension](#)
- [Ascension's Giving Tree](#)
- [Movie Night](#)
- [New Book for Wednesday Morning](#)
- [Ascension's Adventurers to tour the National Archives](#)

## LIFELONG LEARNING

- [Mind-Body Skills Workshop](#)
- [Finding God in the Waves Book Group](#)
- [Sunday School Happening](#)
- [Cell Groups at Ascension](#)
- [Thursday Afternoon Tai Chi Class](#)
- [Yoga At Ascension](#)
- [Listening Heart Community](#)
- [Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

## WORSHIP

- [Worship Rosters, January-March](#)
- [Link to Service Leaflets](#)

## SERVICE

5:00 Holy Eucharist -  
p.m. Chapel  
Youth Group Meeting  
6:00 and Spritual  
p.m. Formation -- Under  
Croft

[Vestry Nominations](#)  
[Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)  
[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)  
[Gaithersburg HELP](#)  
[Mobile Med](#)

### Monday, January 9

11:30 Living with a Chronic  
a.m. Illness - Room 1  
1:00  
p.m. Al-Anon—Library  
6:30  
p.m. Overeaters  
Anonymous—Room 4  
7:00  
p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Meeting  
- Room 6  
7:30  
p.m. Renewal Works Team  
- Library

**LIFE AT ASCENSION**  
[Prayer Request Updates](#)

### PUBLICATIONS

[Link to the Annual Report](#)  
[December Ascendant](#)  
[Together We Shine](#)

### Tuesday, January 10

11:00  
a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:00  
p.m. 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

### Prayers

For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Christ Church, Washington Parish,  
Christ Church Parish, Kensington, Christ Church Accokeek (St. John's Parish) and  
St. John's Chapel, Christ Church, Georgetown, Anglican Communion Sunday

### Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Joann, Fran, Diane, Sarah, Roz, Joann, Sandy, Janet 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.

### Wednesday, January 11

11:00  
a.m. Wednesday Morning  
Book Group-Library  
1:00  
p.m. Al-Anon—Library  
7:00  
p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—  
Main Church  
7:00  
p.m. Overeaters  
Anonymous—Room 1  
8:00  
p.m. Gamblers'  
Anonymous—Chapel

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

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

### Thursday, January 12

10:00  
a.m. Yoga - Chapel  
4:00  
p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel  
6:30  
p.m. Spanish Class —  
Ascension House  
7:45  
p.m. Choir Rehearsal—  
Chapel

### Worship Leaders

**Sunday, January 8**  
Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

#### 7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Enid Cole  
Chalicians: Leslie Sanya, Sharon Hayden  
Healing Prayer: Lisa Murdock  
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas  
Welcome Team: Meredith Horan, Florence Sirleaf  
Altar Guild: Leslie Sanya, Wadai Dennis  
Hospitality Angel: Enid Cole

#### 9:00 AM

Reader: Andrew Greene, Barbara Mansfield  
Prayer: Susan McLaughlin  
Chalicians: Sari Stoddard, Swithin Kwamena-Poh  
Healing Prayer: Paul Whitmore  
Acolytes: Nuelle Johnson, Manny Johnson, Gary McLaughlin  
Welcome Team: Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma, Josephine Clarke  
Altar Guild: Dorett Sutherland, Adoma Baffoe, Dotty Pfadenhauer  
Hospitality Angel: Robertine Urey

#### 11:15 AM

Reader: Anne Brink  
Healing Prayer: Laura Shay  
Welcome Team: Avin Lalmansingh, Karl Didavi, Clark Didav  
Altar Guild: Laura Shay  
Reader/Chalician: Rimie Sicard, Kirk Fitch  
Eucharistic Visitors: Jean Cohn  
Song Leader: Betsy Hasegawa

[Link to our Online  
Calendar](#)

Hospitality Angel: Anthony Lalmansingh

Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens, Eliane Dunn-Johnson

