



Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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This Week at Ascension

[Link to Bulletins for November 20 \(now including one for the Misa en Español\)](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon "Seeds of Good and Evil"](#)

[Link to John Pruessner's Stewardship Talk](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, November 18

1:00 pm Al-Anon, Library
6:00 pm Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1

Saturday, November 19

9:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
11:00 am Al-Anon—Undercroft Commons
11:00 am Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

6:00 pm XV—Wendy Quijada

Sunday, November 20

7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
9:00 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 am & 11:00 am Godly Play—Room 6
9:00 am & 11:00 am Joyful Path—Room 11
10:15 am Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel

Living Generously: Christ the King Sunday
The Rev. Francisco Garcia

With the rise of immensely popular TV shows like Game of Thrones, it's safe to say that Kings and Kingdoms are back. Millions of people have been captivated by the storyline of competing noble houses vying for ultimate power — to gain control of the monarchy of the Seven Kingdoms represented by the Iron Throne. Wrapped up in the plotline are tales of deceit, lust, corruption, and violence as the means to most ends.

Although I'm not a fan of Game of Thrones, I have been following its rise in popularity. While people have critiqued the series for its explicit use of all kinds of violence, I think that if you are going to portray a somewhat realistic depiction of Kingdoms, even ones filled with fantasy tales of dragons and magic, then it would be remiss to gloss over the brutal, violent nature of Kingdom life. One need not look very hard in our own biblical narrative to see that this is the case.

And so, on Christ the King Sunday, we are challenged to follow a radically different kind of King and live into a different notion of Kingdom. Many people, including myself, have had trouble with references to Jesus as the "King of kings and Lord of lords," for the patriarchal and oppressive trappings that are embedded in the very language and history of these terms.

However, as I reflect on stewardship and what this means to follow Jesus authentically in our day, I see that there is a redeeming, subversive value in the Kingly references to Jesus. For us, Jesus is the most concrete, palpable, and supreme revelation of God's love in the world. Today's verses from Colossians tell us that "in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." Jesus entered into the world to serve as the true example of nobility — a divine, countercultural force to challenge the oppressive, violent, and greedy ways of earthly kings and kingdoms. Jesus came to usher in a wave of love, compassion, and justice so powerful that it would challenge and call humanity to live as we were intended to — in community, with radical generosity. Not hoarding wealth, power, resources, and privilege for ourselves — but sharing it with others freely, especially with the least of these among us.

So, we need not only rely on kings or thrones but also on the generous Spirit of God that is pleased to dwell among us even today. This is what it means to be the Church, and to follow Jesus. Living generously is more than a stewardship message — it is indeed the way to the grace and love-filled Kingdom of God.

Reflection Questions:

- How might God be calling you personally, and as a faith community, to challenge systems of power and violence, and to live with radical, open generosity?
- How can we organize our stewardship practices in our congregations and wider church structures to support greater generosity and partnership with our surrounding

10:15 am Men's Shelter Lunches
 11:00 am Misa en Español - Chapel
 11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

communities?

The Rev. Francisco Garcia is Priest in Charge at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Inglewood, California.

Monday, November 21

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
 7:00 pm Listening Hearts Community—Library

Tuesday, November 22

6:00 pm Bible Study—Ascension House
 7:00 pm Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
 7:00 pm Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
 8:30 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, November 23

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Book Group-Library
 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
 6:30 pm Spanish Class —Ascension House
 7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
 7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
 8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, November 24

10:00 am Thanksgiving Day Service—Main Church
 6:00pm Bariatric Support Group—Chapel

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

HEADLINERS

[Thanksgiving Day Eucharist](#)
[Mind-Body Skills Workshop](#)
[Wednesday Book Group](#)
[Youth Group Fall Service Project](#)
[No Tai Chi Class on ThanksGiving Day](#)
[New Children's Sunday Morning Music Program](#)
[Blessing of the Cars](#)
[Lady of Guadalupe Day](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Cell Groups at Ascension](#)
[No Yoga Class on Thanksgiving Day](#)
[Listening Heart Community](#)
[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

WORSHIP

[Request to Submit Dates for Worship Leaders' Roster](#)
[Worship Rosters, October-December](#)
[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

SERVICE

[The 37th Annula Interfaith Concert](#)
[Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)
[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)
[Gaithersburg HELP](#)
[Blood Pressue Screening](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

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

Prayers

For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for The Feast of Christ the King, Christ Church, Chaptico ,Christ Church, Clinton Parish
 Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish, Christ Church, Prince George's Parish, Christ Church, Wayside Parish

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Martha, Fran, Caryl , Monica, Diane, Sarah, Roz, Tom, 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 all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

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

Worship Leaders

Sunday, November 20
 Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Elaine Dunn-Johnson and Alice Padmore

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Leslie Sanya
 Chaliceists: Edna Leake, Wadai Dennis
 Healing Prayer: Jason Cutshall
 Acolytes: Raymond Chin, Aidan Douglas
 Welcome Team: Frank Sanya, Enid Cole
 Altar Guild: Enid Cole, Mardia Dennis

9:00 AM

Reader: Andrew Greene, Betsy Hasegawa
 Prayer: Carleton MacDonald
 Healing Prayer: Jason Cutshall
 Acolytes: Alfred Waskiye, Roberta Taylor, Kofi Kwamena-Poh
 Welcome Team: Doret Sutherland, James Black, Jonathan Black
 Altar Guild: Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Joyce Bvumbe, Sari Stoddard

11:15 AM

Reader:	Avin Lalmansingh
Healing Prayer:	Sarah Rubin
Welcome Team:	Sciou Broderick/Peedy Terry, Emmanuel Nwankwo
Altar Guild:	Anika Lalmansingh
Reader/Chalicerist:	Jason Cutshall, Kirk Fitch
Eucharistic Minister:	Kate Foley
Eucharistic Visitors:	Javier Ocampo



