



Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*



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This Week at Ascension

The Second Coming of Christ *is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of God's nature, sustaining the universe by God's powerful command. —Hebrews 1:3, Jerusalem Bible*

Christ is not Jesus' last name. The word *Christ* is a title, meaning the Anointed One, which we so consistently applied to Jesus that to us it became like a name. But a study of Scripture, Tradition, and the experience of many mystics reveals a much larger, broader, and deeper meaning to "the Christ." Frankly, it is a metaphysical concept more than a religious one, although almost all people today would see it as a religious name for Jesus.

The above passage from Hebrews says that Christ "sustains the universe." Christ is a religious concept because it can be used to

[Link to Bulletins for November 27 \(now including one for the Misa en Español\)](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon "Lord of Lords"](#)

[Link to Javier's sermon "Finding Freedom and Forgiveness"](#)

[Link to Sari Stoddard's Annual Giving Talk](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Thursday, November 24

10:00 am Thanksgiving Day Service—
Main Church

6:00 pm Bariatric Support Group—
Chapel

Friday, November 25

Office Closed

1:00 pm Al-Anon, Library

Saturday, November 26

9:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous—
Chapel

11:00 am Al-Anon—Undercroft
Commons

11:00 am Overeaters Anonymous—
Room 1

Sunday, November 27

7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main
Church

8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir
Room

describe reality in an archetypal, symbolic, and profound way. But it names the shape of the universe before it names the individual who typifies that shape, the one we call Jesus Christ. All of creation first holds God's anointing ("beloved" status), and then Jesus brings the message home in a personal way thirteen billion years later!

This is a different way of thinking for most of us. The three Synoptic Gospels are largely talking about Jesus, the historical figure who healed and taught and lived in human history; whereas John's Gospel presents the trans-historical "Christ" (which is why so very few stories in John coincide with Matthew, Mark, and Luke). This Christ is frequently making universal "I AM" statements and claims (see John 6:35, 48; 8:12, 24, 58; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1), mirroring the unspeakable name of the Holy One in Exodus 3:14. This is very different than the Jesus of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Among the four Gospels, we have both Jesus and Christ.

Paul also never met the historical Jesus and hardly ever quotes Jesus directly. In almost all of Paul's preaching and writing, he is referring to the Eternal Christ Mystery or the Risen Christ rather than Jesus of Nazareth before his death and resurrection. The Risen Christ is the only Jesus that Paul ever knew! This makes Paul a fitting mediator for the rest of us, since the Omnipresent Risen Christ is the

- 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
- 11:00 am Misa en Espanol - Chapel
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel
- 5:00 pm Vestry Meeting—Room 11
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Meeting & Spiritual Formation—Undercroft Commons

Monday, November 28

- 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
- 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
- 7:00 pm Jr. Girl Scout Meeting—Room 6

Tuesday, November 29

- 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 30

- 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
- 7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

only Jesus we will ever know as well (see 2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

Jesus’ historical transformation (“resurrected flesh”) allows us more easily to experience the Presence that has always been available since the beginning of time, a Presence unlimited by space or time, which is the promise and “guarantee” of our own transformation (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-53). In Jesus the Timeless Christ became time bound, so we could enjoy the personal gaze, as it were (see 1 John 1-2).

Whenever the material and the spiritual coincide, there is the Christ. Jesus fully accepted that human-divine identity and walked it into history. Henceforth, the Christ “comes again” whenever we are able to see the spiritual and the material coexisting, in any moment, in any event, and in any person. All matter reveals Spirit, and Spirit needs matter to “show itself”! I believe “the Second Coming of Christ” happens whenever and wherever we allow this to be utterly true for us. This is how God continually breaks into history—even before the first Stone Age, humans stood in awe and wonder, gazing at the stars.

- Richard Rohr

Vestry Nominations Welcome:

8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—
Chapel

Thursday, December 1

10:00 am Yoga - Chapel

4:00 pm Tai Chi—Chapel

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Chapel

6:30 pm Spanish Class —Ascension
House

It is that time of year when the Vestry is in discernment around who may be called to the ministry of leadership at Ascension. If you'd like to nominate someone simply approach any Vestry member, or e-mail one of the Wardens: Betsy Hasegawa (grhasegawa@verizon.net) or Janet King (bkmechanical@aol.com).

Decluttering

Ascension!

Let us prepare the way of the Lord but relieving our facilities of unwanted and unused artifacts. Join us if you are good at purging, on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, November 27

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-
Wilkinson

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Jason Cutshall
Chalicians: Sharon Hayden,
Enid Cole
Healing Prayer: Jean Cohn
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan
Douglas
Welcome Team: Janet King, Florence
Sirleaf
Altar Guild: Ledlie Sanga
Hospitality Angel: Sharon Hayden

9:00 AM

Reader: Jason Cutshall, Gary
McLaughlin
Prayer: Swithin Kwamena-
Poh
Healing Prayer: Javier Ocampo
Acolytes: Lisa Dickson, Gary
McLaughlin, Paul
Whitmore
Welcome Team: Nii Armah Akuete,
Ruby King, Charles
Dickson
Altar Guild: Dorett Sutherland,
Adoma Baffoe,

HEADLINERS

[Thanksgiving Day Eucharist](#)

[Blessing of the Cars](#)

[Lady of Guadalupe Day](#)

[Movie Night: December 2016](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Mind-Body Skills Workshop](#)

[Wednesday Book Group](#)

[Youth Group Fall Service Project](#)

[New Children's Sunday Morning Music Program](#)

[Cell Groups at Ascension](#)

[Thursday Afternoon Tai Chi Class](#)

[Yoga At Ascension](#)

[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

[Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)

[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

Hospitality Angel: Dotty Pfadenhauer
Sarah Gallagher

11:15 AM

Reader: Peg Ruppel
Healing Prayer: Alex Langley
Welcome Team: Avin Lalmansingh,
Karl Didavi, Clark
Didavi
Altar Guild: Anika Lalmansingh
Reader/Chalicerist: Christian Nwankwo,
Laura Shay
Eucharistic Minister: Enid Cole
Eucharistic Visitors: Jean Cohn
Song Leader: Claire Morin
Hospitality Angel: Pamela Novel

Flower Delivery: Esther Sawyer
Adoma Baffoe

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Blood Pressure Screening](#)
[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 St. Nicholas' Parish, Darnestown, Diocesan Latino Ministry, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Martha, Fran, Monica, Sarah, Roz 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.

We give thanks for the lives of Julian Cohn and Ruth Oram-Smith, in whose memory the altar flowers were given by Don and Jean Cohn.

We pray for the families and friends of Caryl Thomas and Barbar Athey that God will give them comfort and strength during this time of loss.

