



# Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*



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## *This Week at Ascension*

### Living Generously

The Rev. J.R. Lander

Zacchaeus the tax collector is not the ancient equivalent of modern day IRS or Canada Revenue Agency employees. He was not a civil servant. Ancient Roman tax collectors were individuals who bid for the right to collect taxes in a certain geographic area. This bid represented the tax Rome expected from a given geographic area. The tax collector would then collect funds to pay himself back. Any amount collected above that amount was pure profit, with few limitations. So they not only represented the Roman occupation, but they also profited through abusing and defrauding others.

But Jesus came to bring salvation to all, even the hated tax collector. Through Jesus, this one tax collector, Zacchaeus, experiences a remarkable moment of redemption. Jesus calls him out of the tree he had climbed. Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus's home, and Zacchaeus is transformed. He immediately offers to give away half of what he has to the poor, and to repay anyone he has defrauded by a factor of four.

To me, the story of Zacchaeus is a story of learning to live generously. He had far more than he needed. He had much he could share with others. And he recognized that much of that had been earned through fraudulent means.

I believe this story challenges us to consider how we live in our capitalist society. Capitalism isn't bad. The free market has allowed for much good. But how do we exist within it? Do we hoard all we earn? Are we driven solely by the motivation for our own profit? Or do we seek that balance where we maximize profits, make the world a better place, and share what we have with others?

Stewardship isn't a euphemism for fundraising in the Church, nor is it restricted to six to eight weeks each fall in the Church year. Stewardship is how we live our lives as Christians, recognizing that this life isn't ours, but rather God's. To be a steward is to use this life for the building up of God's kingdom, one brick at a time. How and what we give to God through the Church is a part of this, but really merely the beginning. How we live our lives is the real heart of stewardship. That might be in a for-profit industry, or not. It might be as a government employee, or a contractor. That might be a soldier, or as an officer. Whatever the setting, let us seek a motivation that isn't about personal gain and wealth, but rather about making the world a better place.

### Reflection Questions:

- Have there been times in your life when you felt the need to hold on tightly to all you had?
- How did you let go?

J.R. Lander is an Episcopal priest living in Long Beach, California. While completing a graduate degree at the University of Washington, he found his passion for stewardship ministries. He is available to consult with parishes and leaders on stewardship, annual giving, planned giving, and capital giving.

PS. Pledge cards for the Annual Giving Campaign and Facilities Reserve Fund, and Electronic Funds Transfer Forms, are available on the table by the office door, Chapel side entrance, and on the website.

### [Announcements](#)

### HEADLINERS

- ["Fifth Sunday" Brunch](#)
- [All Saints' Sunday, November 6](#)
- [Fall into Wellness Health Fair](#)
- [Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)
- [Cell Groups at Ascension](#)

### LIFELONG LEARNING

- [Yoga at Ascension](#) – No Yoga Class on October 27
- [Wednesday Morning Book Group](#) – No Meeting on October 26

[Link to the Bulletins for October 30 \(now including the Misa en Español\)](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon "Me and My Shadow"](#)

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

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

### Calendar Highlights

**Friday, October 28**  
1 pm, Al-Anon, Room 1

**Saturday, October 29**  
9am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel  
9:00 am Wellness Community Program—Chapel  
11:00 am Al-Anon—Undercroft Commons  
11:00 am Overeaters Anonymous— Room 1

**Sunday, October 30**  
7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room  
9:00 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
9:00 am and 11:00 am Godly Play—Room 6  
9:00 am and 11:00 am Joyful Path—Room 1  
10:15 am Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel  
11:00 am Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel  
11:00 am Misa en Español— Chapel  
11:15 am Holy Eucharist— Main Church  
12:30 pm 5th Sunday Brunch—Undercroft Commons  
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist— Chapel

**Monday, October 31**  
1pm Al-Anon, Library  
6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4

**Tuesday, November 1**  
6pm Bible Study, Ascension House  
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Room 1  
7pm Stillwater Mindfulness Group, Chapel  
8:30pm Al-Anon, Room 1

**Wednesday, November 2**  
10am Book Group, Library  
1pm Al-Anon, Library  
6:30pm Spanish Class, Ascension House  
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal, Choir Room  
7pm Overeaters Anonymous, Room 1  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Chapel

**Thursday, November 3**  
10am Yoga Class, Chapel  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

### Worship Leaders

**Sunday, October 30**  
Preacher: Jason Cutshall

**Flower Delivery:** Hawa Clemens and Eliane Dunn-Johnson

7:45 AM Reader/Prayers: Leslie Sanya, Chalcists: :  
Leslie Sanya Edna Leake, Healing Prayer: Jean Cohn,  
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas, Welcome Team:  
Wadai Dennis, Frank Sanya, Altar Guild: Erid Cole,  
Mardia Dennis

9:00 AM, Readers: Gary McLaughlin, Susan McLaughlin,  
Prayers: Christian Simpson, Chalcists: Swithin  
Kwamena-Poh, Sari Stoddard, Healing Prayer: Paul  
Whitmore, Acolytes: Lisa Dickson, Gary McLaughlin,  
Roberta Taylor, Welcome Team: Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby  
King, Charles Dickson, Altar Guild: Caryl Thomas, Sari  
Stoddard, Dotty Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM Reader: Anne Brink, Chalcists: Sarah Rubin,  
Peg Ruppel, Healing Prayer: Alex Langley, Welcome  
Team: Sciou Broderick, Peedy Terry, Emmanuel  
Nwankwo, Altar Guild: Laura Shay

5:00 PM Reader/Chalcist: Pete Minderman

Eucharistic Visitors: Pamela Irons-Forth

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)  
[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

#### WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, October-December](#)  
[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

#### SERVICE

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

#### LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

#### PUBLICATIONS

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

#### Prayers

For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for All Saints' Church, Chevy Chase Parish  
All Saints' Pre-School, Chevy Chase  
All Saints' Parish, Oakley  
All Souls' Memorial Church, All Souls' Parish

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

Monica, Christian, Sarah, Roz, Tom, Fe, 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.