

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Last Sunday after Pentecost : 20 November A.D. 2016

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 communities?

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

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.

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to become "ambassadors of Christ," so we welcome you to this community of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Javier Garcia Ocampo

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study The Exodus, when Moses led the People of God out of slavery in Egypt through a parting in the Red Sea. This story helps evoke the People's experience of God's elusive presence. Godly Play classes meet downstairs in Room 6 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will be spending the next several Sundays studying and learning about "the Many Ways." We will be exploring and discovering the beliefs and rituals of the five major world religions. We will continue our journey from Hinduism to Buddhism. Come and join us in Room 11 during the 9, 11 and 11:15 services.

Youth Group Fall Service Activity

November: Prepare, invite and engage with the faith-based community, fund raise for supplies

December 14th : Attend special Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence (Wed evening, anniversary of Newtown)

<http://www.stmarks.net/preventing-gun-violence/>

December 17th: Ascension Youth to lead establishment of "Memorial to the Lost" <http://heedinggodscall.org/content/heeding-gods-call-memorials-lost> on 355 on our church grounds. Rebar grounded, PVC piping installed, names put on T-Shirts, T-shirts hung, prayer circle

Yoga Classes

Randy teaches yoga every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing. **There will be no class on Thanksgiving Day.**

Tai Chi Class

There will be no Tai Chi class on Thanksgiving Day. Tai Chi and Yoga resume at their regularly scheduled times in the Ascension Chapel on **Thursday, December 1.**

New Music Program for Sunday School

We are so pleased to announce a new component to our Sunday School program. The last Sunday of each month will now be "Music Sunday" with Howard Hanson,

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Ascension's Children's Music Director. Each Music Sunday we will spend approximately 15 minutes during the 9:00 and 11:15 Sunday School sessions to learn basic music theory, explore our favorite musical traditions and learn new Bible songs. So let's get our children fired up!

The Listening Heart Community

The Listening Heart community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We meet the first and third Monday of each month. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

The Wednesday Morning Book Group continues exploration of *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found it Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. From Amazon.com: "From the host of the popular podcasts, The Liturgists Podcast and Ask Science Mike, a story of having faith, losing it, and finding it again through science—revealing how the latest in neuroscience, physics, and biology help us understand God, faith, and ourselves." For a fuller description and to purchase, go to <http://amzn.to/2ecQ9DC>

In preparation for this Wednesday's discussion, read Chapters 2 and 3.

Cell Group News

Once in a month, the group for parents of small children, facilitated by Sarah and Brian Annear will meet in the Library at 11:00am and the next meeting is on December 4. While the group originated from the 10:15 service, anyone who fits the profile is welcome! You can read the book's preface and introduction at the below Amazon link. <http://amzn.to/2d87Apx> It is based on this text from Genesis: <http://bit.ly/13yDft0> Feel free to bring snacks/toys to help distract the little ones.

Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group

Our weekly program of meditation and mindfulness practices in the tradition of zen monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hahn will continue on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Mind-Body Skills Workshop

Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris will offer workshops on holistic health using research based healing therapies for 8 Mondays from November 14, 2016 to January 9, 2017 between 7pm and 9pm to help you deal with life changes, stress and illness. Participants have experienced a decrease in depression and anxiety, renewed sense of wellbeing, better coping skills to manage pain, increased energy and stamina, enhanced immune system, greater self-awareness and more. The fee is \$65 per session, \$520 for the series or \$500 if paid in full by the first session.

For more information or if you have question, contact Dr. Lightner-Morris, at 301.524.0808 or tina@lightbalncecounseling.org

LIFE AT ASCENSION



Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in the spirit of gratitude for creation and how the earth God has given us supports our lives. Join us Thanksgiving Day in the main church at 10:00 a.m. for a Eucharist that will reconnect us to a sense of the goodness of creation, and creation as the body of God.

Visitors' Welcome Kits Are Available

If you are visiting Ascension today, Welcome! To learn more about the community that is Church of the Ascension, please take home with you a yellow welcome packet, located on the Chapel counter and on the table next to the Office. A Welcome Team member will be glad to assist you!

Blessing of the Cars



As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God will be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the Blessing of the Cars on November 27 after the 11:00 am services. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 10 to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 pm in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience more about the Latino Traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do it. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

Worship Leaders' Roster

Sari will be starting the roster for January, February and March 2017 very soon. If you know of any dates when you won't be available, let her know by email (sari.stoddard@verizon.net) and she will make sure you aren't scheduled to serve on those dates. Please don't send her anything after the first week of December, though - she won't be able to make changes after that time.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Blood Pressure Screenings



On November 27, there will be blood pressure screenings after each service in Room 1. All are welcome.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunches program provides bagged lunches, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

Sign-up for contributions are through an online system and assembly occurs by those present after the 9:00 am service on the third Sunday of the month. We will put lunches together today at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

THE 37TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH CONCERT

The 37th Annula Interfaith Concert is today at 5:00pm at Metropolitan AME church, 1518 M Stree NW, Washington, DC. You can see the flyer: <http://imgur.com/a/KM3JO>

Reserved Section: \$40, General Admission: \$20, Senior/Student:\$10

For detailed information on Free parking, convenient Metro Access, sponsorship and Ticketing: www.ifcmw.org or 202.234.6300

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$9,393.41	\$9,498.19	\$433,645.27	\$427,418.70

N.B.—In addition to pledge and plate income, together with what Ascension receives in rental fees and money from several small trusts, Ascension uses the cash portion of the Endowment Fund to meet month-to-month operating expenses. In general, we have been using between \$7,000 - \$8,000 per month from the Endowment on top of a monthly transfer of \$3,334 that the Vestry approved as part of the 2016 budget.

Pledge Update as of 11-15-16:

- 69 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, for a total of \$152,577
- 35 Pledges for Facilities Reserve Fund, for a total of \$58,170

Below are the names of those who pledged to the annual giving campaign this past week:

- Ronald & Sharon Hayden
- Lori Perine

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table outside the office, in the Chapel or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Rector - (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson
ral@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Assistant to the Rector—The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Seminarian—Jason Cutshall
jascut@mac.com

Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell,
tidwellj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Kathy Van Arnum
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors—Sari Stoddard, 301.972.0914,
Sari.stoddard@verizon.net, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499
mard908@gmail.com

Children's Music Leader - Howard Hanson,
howarddhanson@gmail.com

Chapel Musicians - Eric O'Loughlin, ericsmelody@gmail.com,
Samuel Munguia, pianoconclave@verizon.net

Nursery Attendant—Brenda Alvarez

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore

2018: Maria Estela Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,
Gary McLaughlin

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

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

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

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

Cycles of Prayer

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

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

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

THANKSGIVING DAY

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

- 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 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 Vestry Meeting—Room 1
- 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Meeting & Spiritual Formation—
Undercroft Commons

Church Attendance	Oct 30	Nov. 06	Nov. 13
7:45 a.m.	24	35	25
9:00 a.m.	90	109	97
10:15 a.m.	28	19	20
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	38	87	53
11:15 am	83	71	34
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise			8
5:00 p.m.	17	9	19
Total:	280	330	256