

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: 30 October A.D. 2016

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.

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: Jason Cutshall

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

The youth group will meet next Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft Commons. Contact Angie for more information at angela.hightwalker@nist.gov or 301 693 2399.

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.

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.

Spanish Class

The Spanish Class with Rev. Javier Ocampo will be on Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Ascension House.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We will finish *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans on November 2.

Read Section VII, "Anointing of the Sick" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion.

On November 16 Randy and the Wednesday Morning Book Group will begin exploring *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>

Movie Night, November 4

Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft Commons on November 4 at 6:00 p.m. to watch the movie. We'll start off with pizza and whatever else people want to bring. We do ask for a donation of \$5 per person with a \$15 per family maximum toward the cost of the pizza. We'll start the movie at 6:30 and we'll most likely be out and off to bed by 8:30 p.m.

Snack foods will not be denied admission. You need not be a child, or have one, to attend! Dolls, favorite toys, sleeping bags and pillows are also welcome!

Cell Group News

On the first Sunday of the month there is a group for parents of small children, facilitated by Sarah and Brian Annear. 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.

Sari Stoddard and Paul Whitmore's group is also using the McLaren book and is taking names of interested people, who will decide when and where to meet together. E-mail Sari at sari.stoddard@verizon.net if you want in.

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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

“Fifth Sunday” Brunch is Today

Ascension’s next gathering of the Fifth Sunday Brunch is taking place today at 12:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. All are welcome, new and old members alike. See all of you there.

All Saints’ at Ascension



At the 9:00 and 11:15 services on Sunday, November 6, we will prayerfully read the names of loved ones who have entered into the “land of light and joy” and are now part of the Church Triumphant. All Saints’ Sunday is the occasion for celebrating the lives and legacies of the great saints of the church and the saints of our lives. Forms for you to complete are in today’s bulletins and on the tables in the hallway next to the office and in the Chapel and Today, October 30 is the last day to return the completed request form. Copies of the list of names of those for whom you have requested prayers will be available on the welcome desk in the narthex of the main church on All Saints’ Sunday.

At 7:45, 9:00 and 11:15 we will also renew our Baptismal Covenant.

Día de los Muertos



Sunday November 6, at the 11:00 a.m. Spanish Eucharist in the Chapel on All Saints’ Sunday, we will be observing a Latin American tradition called the festival of “Día de los Muertos.” As is customary we will adorn the altar with pictures of departed loved ones, and offer our memories of them and their spiritual legacies to the Lord.

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!

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 **on November 20 again** at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Last Week’s Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$9,293.50	\$9,498.19	\$406,164.30	\$398,924.08

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 10-25-16:

- 39 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, total \$93,377
- 17 Pledges for Facilities Reserve Fund, total \$11,880

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign:

Mary Anna Culkin, Don & Martha Marks, Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Christopher & Susan Ahalt, Levin B Broughton, Jemima Carr, Cynthia Perley, Neil & Nathalie Scott, Carolyn Dowling & John Bjerke, Jennie B Cargill, Nancy & John Carman, Beverly Stennett, Gary & Susan McLaughlin, Mary N Waldron, Russell E Weber, Kelvin W Basier, Suzanne E Hood, Monteath B Petersen, Janet King, Betty B Knight, Marjorie Madikoto, Richard & Susan Snay, Margaret Tellu, Stewart & Lavina Williams

And to those who pledges to the Facilities Fund:

Carleton MacDonald, Claire Rosser, Paul Whitmore, Laura Shay & Linda MacNeil, Donna R Moss, Martha Lubet, Sari Stoddard, Avin Lalmansingh, Ceda & Zadinga Ogada, Rose & Jeff Buck, John B Pruessner, John & Kelly Ten-Hagen, Ann & Jim Utterback, Don & Jean Cohn, Kevin Conway, Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Sylvana F McIntosh

CONTACT US

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- ◆ 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

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
All Saints' Church, Chevy Chase Parish
All Saints' Pre-School, Chevy Chase
All Saints' Parish, Oakley
All Souls' Memorial Church, All Souls' Parish

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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 2

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

10:00 am Yoga Class—Chapel
7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
6:00 pm Couples 12-step Program—Room 1
6:00 pm Movie Night—Undercroft Commons

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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 Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
11:00 am Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
11:15 am Family with Young Children Cell
Group—Library
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct. 23
7:45 a.m.	22	18	20
9:00 a.m.	79	104	87
10:15 a.m.	12	22	17
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	39	52	38
11:15 am	52	49	52
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	12	11	14
5:00 p.m.	9	18	8
Total:	225	274	236