



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for August 21](#)

[Link to Randy's August 14 sermon "The Truth Is Out There"](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, August 19 - Sunday August 21
Womens' Retreat, Hallwood

Friday, August 19
6 pm Couples 12-Step Program, Room 1

Saturday, August 20
9am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft Commons
11am Overeaters Anonymous, Room 1

Sunday, August 21
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
9am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
10:15am Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, Chapel
10:15am Men's Shelter Lunches, Undercroft Commons
11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel

Loving God

We humans, at least we homo sapiens, have real difficulty imaging God as personal if she, he, or it doesn't look like us. How can God be in relationship with creation and creatures if God is "simply" (!) Being, or the "Ground of Being," like the "Force" in Star Wars or Brahman in Hinduism? Are our only choices for creating an image of God "humanity writ large" or an impersonal, omnipresent energy? I believe this is simply a failure of the human heart and mind - a form of spiritual bigotry - to feel and believe that unless God is somehow human like us God can't be in a personal relationship. God simply can't be personal without being a "person," we think.

Yet the energy that flared forth in the Big Bang also manifests in this cosmos as beings like you and me who are capable of life and consciousness and love and relationship... and probably so much more than we can possibly begin to imagine! It is all right, I think, to imagine God "like us" as long as we know that our pictures - like our prayers - are opportunities for communion with the Real Thing (who is a Who and not a Thing). To believe otherwise would of course be idolatrous, pure and simple. Even the notorious idol worshipers against whom the prophets of the Hebrew Bible preached knew that their statues were not the gods themselves. Images and words and doctrines are the way we are enabled to connect to the reality that inspires them. But idolatry is so much more insidious when we say that God must look or act like us to qualify as a person. "My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours." - Isaiah 55:8-9

Peace, Randy

[Announcements](#)

HEADLINERS

[Men's Shelter Lunch Program](#)

[Blessing of the Backpacks](#)

11:15am Holy Eucharist,
Main Church
1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam,
Undercroft Commons
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, August 22
6:30pm Overeaters
Anonymous, Room 1

Tuesday, August 23
7pm Codependents
Anonymous, Room 1
7pm Stillwater Mindfulness
Group, Chapel
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

Wednesday, August 24
7pm Missional Voices,
Ascension House
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal,
Main Church
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,
Chapel

Thursday, August 25
NO Yoga Class
6pm Bariatric Support Group,
Chapel

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, August 21
Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia
Ocampo, The Rev. Carol Flett
(11:15am)

Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens,
Eliane Dunn-Johnson

7:45 AM Reader/Prayers: Jean
Cohn, *Chalicians:* Edna Leake, Wadai
Dennis, *Healing Prayer:* Jean Cohn,
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan
Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Don Cohn,
Jean Cohn, *Altar Guild:* Georgette
Dennis

9:00 AM, Readers: Susan Ahalt, Sue
Snay, *Prayers:* Carleton MacDonald,
Chalicians: Nancy Carman, Cynthia
Perley, *Healing Prayer:* Susan
McLaughlin, *Acolytes:* Alfred
Wasikye, Sam Mendimasa, Kofi
Kwamena-Poh, *Welcome Team:*
Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett,

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[New Wednesday Morning Book: Searching for Sunday, Loving,
Leaving, and finding the Church](#)

[Education for Ministry, Fall 2016](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, July-September](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

SERVICE

[Help Victims of the Silver Spring Apartment Explosion](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Helping Your Seniors](#)

[Armor of Light](#)

[Summer Office Hours](#)

[Living with Serious Illness Group](#)

[Keeping the Feast](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

[Welcome New Seminarian Jason Cutshall](#)

[September Is Coming!](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[Link to the Annual Report and the Vestry Candidate
Questionnaire](#)

[August Ascendant](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:
In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of Our
Saviour, Brookland Parish; The Church of Our Saviour,
Hillandale and Nuestro Salvador; St. Bartholomew's Church.

Christine Kroma, *Altar Guild*: Nancy Carman, Dorett Sutherland

11:15 AM *Reader*: Avin Lalmansingh, *Chalicians*: Avin Lalmansingh, Sarah Rubin, *Healing Prayer*: Peg Ruppel, *Welcome Team*: Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, Kendall Anderson, *Altar Guild*: Georgana Maines, Lynne Shaer

5:00 PM *Reader/Chalician*: Howard Holland

Eucharistic Visitors: Kate Foley

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Helen, Joseph, George, Homé, Maria Estela, Peg, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, 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 birthday of Heidi Sicard, in whose honor the altar flowers are given by her mother Rimie Sicard.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
205 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315
301-948-0122
ascensionmd.org