



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for  
November 15](#)

[Link to Ms. Diana Gustafson's  
Sermon "The Radical  
Welcome of Ruth and the  
Temple Widow" from  
November 8.](#)

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

## Calendar Highlights

**Saturday, November 14**

9am Overeaters Anonymous,  
Undercroft Commons  
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft  
Commons  
11am Overeaters  
Anonymous, Chapel

**Sunday, November 15**

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main  
Church  
8:15am Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room  
9am Holy Eucharist, Main  
Church  
9am Godly Play, Room 6  
9am Joyful Path, Room 11  
9am ESOL Class, Room 1  
10:15am Holy Eucharist for  
Families with Young  
Children, Chapel  
10:15am Men's Shelter  
Lunch Preparation,  
Undercroft Commons  
11am Holy Eucharist in  
Spanish, Chapel  
11am Godly Play, Room 6

**Blessed to Be a Blessing**  
*Stewardship Reflection Series*

Proper 22B ♦ Mark 10:2-16  
*From the beginning of Creation God made them Male and  
Female...*

Jesus offers the reminder that God's intentions toward humanity and creation are full of blessing and mercy from the very beginning. Humanity is made in the image of God, and given lasting companionship which is intended to mirror God's own communal nature. Creation is provided with stewards who are to represent to each other and all creation compassion and love in "the image of God".

We don't choose to be stewards any more than we choose to be born; stewardship is part of our identity. Our only choice is what kind of stewards we will be. A faithful steward knows that what is entrusted belongs to another, and must be used for the good of all. Our faithful stewardship is rooted in the awe and gratitude of God's stance toward us - a stance of blessing and abundance.

The life God has given us is overwhelmingly generous. We have the capacity to perceive beauty in the world; to relish colors, fragrances, sounds, the changing of seasons, the variety of life. It need not have been so, but it is. We have the ability to forge bonds of affection and love. It need not have been so - we could have been created to function on instinct, but we have been created for greater things - blessed things.

God also gives without strings. The charisms of leadership and invention, for example, have been used for great good or ruthless evil, and yet God has not removed these gifts from among us.

God gives sacrificially-- and let's not limit our notion of God's sacrifice to the death of Jesus on the cross. What did it cost God to create us with freedom? What has been the cost of enduring human indifference and rejection over the ages, or the rejection and execution of the Incarnate One?

11am Joyful Path, Room 11  
11:15am Holy Eucharist,  
Main Church  
1pm Pastoral Care Team  
Meeting, Library  
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

**Monday, November 16**  
6:30pm Overeaters  
Anonymous, Undercroft  
Commons  
7pm Listening Heart  
Community, Library  
7:30pm Outreach Committee  
Meeting, Library

**Tuesday, November 17**  
9:30am Staff Meeting,  
Library  
7pm Spanish Bible Study,  
Ascension House  
7pm Still Water Mindfulness  
Practice, Chapel  
7pm Codependents  
Anonymous, Room 1  
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

**Wednesday, November 18**  
10am *Falling Upward* Book  
Group, Library  
6:30pm Yoga, Chapel  
7pm Spanish Class, Ascension  
House  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,  
Chapel

**Thursday, November 19**  
10am Yoga, Chapel  
6pm Bariatric Support Group,  
Chapel  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, November 15  
Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-  
Wilkinson

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

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Kate

That God is determined to bless us seems abundantly clear; the biblical record is filled with accounts of God's pursuit, God's longing for us to live in the blessings of love. The Resurrection, after all, is God's response to humanity at its worst, and the message in the Resurrection is this, "There is nothing you can do - no cruel, evil thing - that will make me stop loving you." Blessing indeed!

Such generosity always requires risk - but it is our call to take that risk, remembering that we are provided more than enough to accomplish our vocation of being blessings to each other in God's image and name. When we open our hearts and arms and advocate for those who are powerless, we are sharing the Good News of God's blessing for all. May it be so!

The Right Rev. Catherine (Cate) Waynick Bishop The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

### *Reflection Questions:*

- What does it mean to you to serve as a Steward in God's image?
- How do you value your own blessedness and the blessedness of others?
- What risks are you willing to take to live into you call to be a blessing to others?

---

**Announcements**  
(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Cottage Meetings, Sunday](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation November 15](#)

[Annual Giving Campaign Update with Annual Giving Form](#)

[Ascension's Giving Tree, 2015](#)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, November 15](#)

[A Joyful Path, November 15](#)

[Youth Group/Formation](#)

[New Book for Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Spirituality 101](#)

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

Siberine, *Chalicians*: Kate Siberine, Enid Cole, *Healing Prayer*: Diana Gustafson, *Acolytes*: Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team*: Herald Douglas, Lisa Murdock, *Altar Guild*: Wadai Dennis

9:00 AM *Readers*: Suzyn Gonzalez, Susan McLaughlin, *Prayers*: Diana Gustafson, *Chalicians*: Jerry Pfadenhauer, Dotty Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer*: Kate Siberine, *Acolytes*: Kayleigh Yankie, Nuelle Johnson, Msangwa Ogada, *Welcome Team*: Esthe Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma, *Altar Guild*: Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Esther Taylor

11:15 AM *Reader*: Sarah Rubin, *Chalicians*: Laura Shay, Diana Gustafson, *Healing Prayer*: Alex Langley, *Welcome Team*: Page Salazar, Avin Lalmansingh, *Altar Guild*: Laura Shay, Georgana Maines

5:00 PM *Reader / Usher*: Pete Minderman

*Eucharistic Visitors*: Meredith Horan, Kate Foley

## Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

### WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Bulletins for Tablets Link

Worship Rosters, October - December

### SERVICE

Gaithersburg HELP

Ascension's Cancer Support Group

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

Child First Montgomery

Action in Montgomery, December 9

### LIFE AT ASCENSION

Housewarming for Javier, November 21

Ascension's Adventure Group to Visit Antietam, November 21

Blood Pressure Screenings, November 22

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Keeping the Feast

Spanish Classes

ESOL Classes

Prayer Request Updates

### PUBLICATIONS

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. Margaret's Parish, DC, Charlie's Place Feeding Program, St. Margaret's Parish.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. John's, Huntingdon.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Peg, Hollis, The Johnson Family, Susan, Johnetta, Doris, Marcia, 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 Ascension's Minister of Music Discernment Team.

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. For all people affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for Syrians and all those displaced by war and violence.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Given by Debar and Shirley Allen, in celebration of Debar "D-Win" Allen II's birthday.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
205 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315  
301-948-0122  
[ascensionmd.org](http://ascensionmd.org)