



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
November 29](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon
"Embracing Darkness" from
November 22.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Saturday, November 28
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Undercroft Commons
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft
Commons
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Chapel

Sunday, November 29
*No Christian Formation for
Children, Youth, or Adults*
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
8:15am Choir Rehearsal,
Choir Room
9am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
10:15am Holy Eucharist for
Families with Young
Children, Chapel
11am Holy Eucharist in
Spanish, Chapel
11:15am Holy Eucharist,
Main Church
4pm Viewing - Bryan
FitzPatrick, Main Church
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, November 30

Blessed to Be a Blessing *Stewardship Reflection Series*

Proper 24B ♦ Mark 10:35-45
*...with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be
baptized...*

I'm from a refugee, immigrant background. My mother's family was chased from China when the Communists came. They lost everything. Yet they are glad, because they eventually immigrated to the United States, building new lives together. A focus on what's important, patience that God's goodness will prevail, and joyful optimism exemplify how my family has responded to God's blessing.

The outward and visible sign of our being blessed by God is our baptism by water and the words that we are marked as Christ's own, baptized in the name of the Trinity. If you reflect on what our baptism means, to receive the Holy Spirit and to belong to Jesus, I am amazed that we're not all dancing with unadulterated joy . . . that we're not all reaching out to draw others into this Dance of Life.

I am reminded of the Mevlevi Sema from Turkey, commonly referred to as Whirling Dervishes, who perform a whirling dance as a remembrance of God's goodness. They whirl, with their right hands raised to receive God's blessings, and their left hands pointed downward, to pass those blessings on to the rest of creation. That prayer posture says those who are blessed are meant to bless others. The Children of Israel learned that lesson when they received manna from the heavens that could not be stored up for another day. God's blessings are not meant to be hoarded, but to be shared as a blessing to others.

Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and his service was unstintingly given. We humans are often stingy, thinking, "How much will I have left?" As church members, even if we were to empty our pockets, giving out of our abundance to serve those who have less, it is unlikely that we would be without a roof over our heads, food to eat, or clothing to wear. What other

10:30am Viewing and Funeral Service - Bryan FitzPatrick, Main Church
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
7pm Girl Scouts, Room 6

Tuesday, December 1

7pm Spanish Bible Study, Ascension House
7pm Still Water Mindfulness Practice, Chapel
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Room 1
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

Wednesday, December 2

10am *Falling Upward* Book Group, Library
7pm Spanish Class, Ascension House
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Chapel

Thursday, December 3

10am Yoga, Chapel
7:45am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, December 4

6pm Movie Night, Undercroft Commons
6pm Couples in Recovery, Chapel

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, November 29
Preacher: Ms. Kate Siberine

Flower Delivery: Adoma Baffoe, Hawa Clemens

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Enid Cole, *Chalicians:* Sharon Hayden, Edna Leake, *Healing Prayer:* Meredith Horan, *Acolytes:* Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Janet King, Florence Sirleaf, *Altar Guild:* Enid Cole, Mardia Dennis

9:00 AM *Readers:* Kirk Davies, Susan Ahalt, *Prayers:* Suzyn Gonzalez,

losses do we fear? Jesus gave himself completely, without measure, unto death upon the cross. Can we profess to follow Jesus and do less than prayerfully moving towards emptying our pockets to serve the neighbors God has given us to love and care for?

God calls us into a generosity of spirit that is much more than just being generous with our material wealth. When we pour ourselves into relationships with the poor, the sick, the widowed, the lonely-- becoming friends and family to those who are not easy friends and have no family-- then we are living into our baptismal call to bless others with all of ourselves, all of who we are, marked as Christ's own. Being a blessing is an important element of being a steward of the Good News of God in Christ.

Lelanda Lee St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Member, Executive Council The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado

Reflection Questions:

- How do you intentionally bless others?
- How is your baptism a call of commitment to stewardship practices?
- How do you receive with an open hand God's blessings and pass them on?

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Memorial Service for Bryan FitzPatrick](#)

[Thanksgiving Day Eucharist](#)

[No Christian Formation Classes, November 29](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Falling Upward, Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Baptisms](#)

[Advent Morning of Meditation, December 12](#)

WORSHIP

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

Chalicians: Esther Tellu, Jerry Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:* Paul Whitmore, *Acolytes:* Alfred Wasikye, Kofi Dickson, Lisa Dickson, *Welcome Team:* Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson, Swithin Kwamena-Poh, *Altar Guild:* Adoma Baffoe, Sari Stoddard, Dotty Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM *Reader:* Kendall Anderson, *Chalicians:* Rimie Sicard, Peg Ruppel, *Healing Prayer:* Laura Shay, *Welcome Team:* Clark Didavi, Alex Langley, *Altar Guild:* Laura Shayh

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher:* Christine Yankus-Eng

Eucharistic Visitors: Pamella Irons-Forth

Attention Worship Leaders

Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe's Day, December 12

SERVICE

Ascension's Giving Tree, 2015

Child First Montgomery

Gaithersburg HELP

Ascension's Cancer Support Group

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

Action in Montgomery, December 9

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Movie Night, December 4

Newcomers' Luncheon

Annual Giving Campaign Update with Annual Giving Form

Christmas Flowers

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 Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for West Malaysia.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Peg, Mary, The FitzPatrick Family, Edward, Sally, Hollis, The Johnson Family, Tracy, Susan, Johnetta, Marcia, Julia, Nancy, Catherine, 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.

Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace- peace that passes our understanding but changes lives.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Paul Whitmore, in loving memory of his parents Paul V. and Norma B. Whitmore.

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