

# *Church of the Ascension*

*September 20, 2020*

*The Sixteenth Sunday  
After Pentecost*

*10:30am*

# *Welcome to the Church of the Ascension*

*We are pleased to have you worship with us. If you are visiting and have not registered, the ushers will ask for your name for contact tracing. All are invited to meet on the front lawn after the service (observing social distancing). Let's get to know each other!*

## **Nursery**

We are not able to offer Nursery care at this time.

*The references on the right side of the bulletin are as follows:*

*BCP indicates the Book of Common Prayer.*

*EOW indicates Enriching our Worship, a supplemental liturgical material.*

*Hymn and "S" numbers indicate the Hymnal 1982*

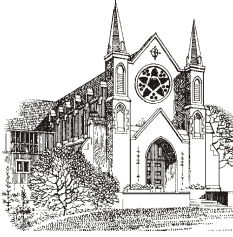
*"S" indicates service music found at the front of the hymnal*

***There is no congregational singing at this time.***

## **Finding Your Way**

**Elevator:** Across from the church office, exiting at the East Entrance. Handicapped parking spaces are near the entrance and in the parking lot.

**Restrooms:** *Upper Level* – Through the door to the left of the altar (NW), past the chapel, past the library, and to the right of the church office.



# *Church of the Ascension*

*September 20, 2020*

## *The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Holy Eucharist, Enriching Our Worship, 10:30am*

*Please note that in our liturgy when we refer to God we cannot adequately verbalize the magnitude and comprehensiveness of God's diversity and are always limited by our use of language. We acknowledge that although Jesus was born into history as a man, neither God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit were embodied with human sex. Although our language is often not all inclusive we believe God always is. God made human beings in God's own image with complexity and diversity. Thank you for sharing your diversity and complexity with us as we worship God together.*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

**Voluntary:** Meditation on *Toplady* Dale Wood

**Opening Hymn:** God, My King, Thy Might Confessing H414

God, my king, thy might confessing,  
ever will I bless thy name;  
day by day thy throne addressing,  
still will I thy praise proclaim.

### **Welcome**

**Opening Acclamation** (*The people standing*) BCP 355

*Presider* Blessed be God: most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.

*People* ***And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.***

*Presider* Let us say together the song of praise.

*Anselm of Canterbury*

*Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; \*  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.*

*Often you weep over our sins and our pride, \*  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.*

*You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, \*  
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.*

*Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; \*  
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.*

*Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; \*  
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.*

*Your warmth gives life to the dead, \*  
your touch makes sinners righteous.*

*Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; \*  
in your love and tenderness, remake us.*

*In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, \*  
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.*

**The Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* *And also with you.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*People sit for the reading of the lessons*

When God saw that the people had stopped doing evil things, he had pity and did not destroy them as he had planned.

Jonah was really upset and angry. So he prayed:

Our LORD, I knew from the very beginning that you wouldn't destroy Nineveh. That's why I left my own country and headed for Spain. You are a kind and merciful God, and you are very patient. You always show love, and you don't like to punish anyone, not even foreigners.

Now let me die! I'd be better off dead.

The LORD replied, "What right do you have to be angry?"

Jonah then left through the east gate of the city and made a shelter to protect himself from the sun. He sat under the shelter, waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh.

The LORD made a vine grow up to shade Jonah's head and protect him from the sun. Jonah was very happy to have the vine, but early the next morning the LORD sent a worm to chew on the vine, and the vine dried up. During the day the LORD sent a scorching wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head, making him feel faint. Jonah was ready to die, and he shouted, "I wish I were dead!"

But the LORD asked, "Jonah, do you have the right to be angry about the vine?"

"Yes, I do," he answered, "and I'm angry enough to die."

But the LORD said:

You are concerned about a vine that you did not plant or take care of, a vine that grew up in one night and died the next. In that city of Nineveh there are more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot tell right from wrong, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?

*Reader*      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 145:1-8 (spoken)**

<sup>1</sup> I will lift you up high, my God, the true king.  
I will bless your name forever and always.

<sup>2</sup> *I will bless you every day.  
I will praise your name forever and always.*

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is great and so worthy of praise!  
God's greatness can't be grasped.

<sup>4</sup> *One generation will praise your works to the next one,  
proclaiming your mighty acts.*

<sup>5</sup> They will talk all about the glorious splendor of your majesty;  
I will contemplate your wondrous works.

<sup>6</sup> *They will speak of the power of your awesome deeds;  
I will declare your great accomplishments.*

<sup>7</sup> They will rave in celebration of your abundant goodness;  
they will shout joyfully about your righteousness:

<sup>8</sup> *"The LORD is merciful and compassionate,  
very patient, and full of faithful love.*

**A Reading from Philippians**

**1:21-30**

If I live, it will be for Christ, and if I die, I will gain even more. I don't know what to choose. I could keep on living and doing something useful. It is a hard choice to make. I want to die and be with Christ, because that would be much better. But I know that all of you still need me. That's why I am sure I will stay on to help you grow and be happy in your faith. Then, when I visit you again, you will have good reason to take great pride in Christ Jesus because of me.

Above all else, you must live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ. Then, whether I visit you or not, I will hear that all of you think alike. I will know that you are working together and that you are struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news.

Be brave when you face your enemies. Your courage will show them that they are going to be destroyed, and it will show you that you will be saved. God will make all of this happen, and he has blessed you. Not only do you have faith in Christ, but you suffer for him. You saw me suffer, and you still hear about my troubles. Now you must suffer in the same way.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand*

**Sequence Hymn** Rock of Ages

H685

Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according  
to **Matthew** **20:1-16**

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said:

Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day’s work, he sent them off to his vineyard.

About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said he would pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard. So they went.

At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?”

“Because no one has hired us,” they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money. He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last. When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were given a full day’s pay.

The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. They said, “The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!”

The owner answered one of them, “Friend, I didn’t cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?”

Jesus then said, “So it is. Everyone who is now first will be last, and everyone who is last will be first.”

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:*      ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

*The people sit*

**The Sermon**

*Leah Romanelli DeJesus*

*All stand*

**The Nicene Creed**

*BCP 358*

*“The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God” (BCP 851).*



*We say these words as a gathered community to affirm our belief in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation, as the source of life and holiness. God has blessed humanity with relationships and community which are part of God's own essence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We do not say these words as some sort of litmus test but as an invitation to wrestle with the mystery and complexity of God with generations of Christians who have gone before us and with generations who will come after us.*

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
Who has spoken through the Prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Stand or kneel as the Holy Spirit leads.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Arthur, and William our Bishops; Vincent, our Priest; Leah, our seminarian; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***For all who serve God in the Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation (especially... *the names on the long-term prayer list are read*).

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom (especially... *the names of the recently deceased are read*).

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

*Presider says*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Confession of Sin**

*EOW 56*

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider and People*

***God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.***

*We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.*

*The Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*EOW 56*

*All stand*

*Presider* The peace of *Christ* be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another with a wave, bow, or appropriate gesture but keep social distance.*

## **The Announcements**

### **For those celebrating birthdays**

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory Sentence**

O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.

*The people stand*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*EOW 60*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*The Presider continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,  
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep  
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;  
earth, winds, and waters;  
and every living thing.

You made us in your image,  
and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;  
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,  
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us  
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**Sanctus and Benedictus** (*spoken*)

*Presider and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people stand or kneel and the Presider continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son,  
Jesus the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.  
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life,  
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,  
Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:  
“Take, eat:  
This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, he gave thanks to you,  
gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,  
with all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. *AMEN*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord’s Prayer** (*spoken*)

*BCP 364*

*Presider and People*

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread.***

*And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept*

### **Fraction Anthem** (*spoken*)

*EOW 69*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.*

### **The Invitation to Communion**

*BCP 364*

*Presider says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All people are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children of all ages are included in this invitation. Please stand or kneel at your seat, and the presider will come around to distribute communion. If you wish to receive, place one open hand atop the other and extend them forward. The priest will carefully drop the consecrated host into your hands.*

*The presider invites those not receiving the sacrament to make a spiritual communion, led by the reader.*



## **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services*

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Communion Music:** Organ Meditations

**Post Communion Music:** Organ Meditations

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

**Postcommunion Prayer** *(said by all, standing)*<sup>4</sup>

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:** Singing Songs of Expectation

H527

Singing songs of expectation,  
onward goes the pilgrim band,  
through the night of doubt and sorrow,  
marching to the promised land.

Clear before us through the darkness  
gleams and burns the guiding light:  
trusting God we march together  
stepping fearless through the night.

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **The Dismissal**

*Presider* Go in peace to be Christ's hands and heart in this world.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Voluntary:** Recessional on *Ton-y-Botel*

Charles Callahan

***Please do not leave this bulletin in the church.  
If you've used it take it with you.***

† † †



## **The Ministers of the Liturgy**

Presider: Rev. Vincent Black

Preacher: Leah Romanelli DeJesus

Seminarian: Leah Romanelli DeJesus

Organist: Jon Peterson

Soloist: Margie Hildebrandt

Acolyte: Derek Lewallen

Reader: Ray Pratt

Ushers: Jeff Sommer, Owen Jones, and Roger Barnhard

Video and live-streaming: Dave Campion



The entire service is streamed live on The Church of the Ascension  
Facebook page each Sunday at 10:30am.

The Sunday gospel lesson and sermon can be viewed on YouTube.  
Search for Church of the Ascension Lakewood Ohio.

**Bible readings from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)**  
**except Psalm reading from the Common English Bible (CEB)**

American Bible Society  
Common English Bible

## **St. Edward's Parking**

Please do not park in numbered spots in the west lot and on the west side of the north lot Mondays through Fridays 6am-6pm.

## **Shawl Ministry**

The Shawl Ministry has resumed their in-person meetings. They will continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 pm.

## **Pet Blessing and Memorial**

There will be a pet blessing and memorial on October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am in the West Garden.

For those who would like to spread their pet's remains at the service in the Saint Francis pet Memorial Garden, please make arrangements with Father Vincent [revvincentblack@yahoo.com](mailto:revvincentblack@yahoo.com)

Donations for the Saint Francis pet Memorial Garden will be placed in the Garden Fund

## **The Weekly Prayer List**

The weekly prayer list is used for those who need extra prayers due to illness or a particular challenge or hardship.

It is important to remove people from the prayer list, not just add to it. We all need prayers and so we pray for the gathered congregation each week when we meet but not each member of the congregation is prayed for by name.

All names will be removed from the prayer list at the end of November as we end the liturgical year. We will start with a new prayer list the first Sunday of Advent. For those wanting to add or remove people from the prayer list please call the office.

## *A General Thanksgiving*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

**Please keep these people in your prayers  
today and all week long:**

**Our Spiritual Leaders:**

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;  
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;  
+Vincent -our Priest; Leah -our seminarian

**Those for whom prayers have been requested:**

Martha Amer  
Bobby Armbrust  
Debbie Armbrust  
Endrit Bala  
Tuggie Ballard  
Cathy Barbato  
Raymond Black  
Teddi Black  
Carolyn Borsini  
Larry Carey  
Joseph Chite  
Elizabeth Ciemins  
Steve Conrad  
Karen Cooper  
Linda Cramer  
Carol Culp  
Robert Dibb  
Laura Egelund  
Don Farrell  
Anne Ferguson  
Bill Fickinger  
Dan Filer  
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh  
Linda Gardner  
John Goers  
Jill Golden

Martha Hartman  
Pat Hendy  
Diane Jackson  
Lisa Jones  
Tabby Kidwell  
Beverly Kliber  
Delores Kulunigan  
Barbara Kutza  
Marilyn Little  
June Madden  
Dolores Mahler  
Tina Marcella  
Lois Melchoire  
Mueller family  
Mike Neill  
Corey Niebes  
Sabrina Pewitt  
Miriam Schantz  
Delores Schew  
Pat Scheetz  
Rachel Sexton  
Naomi Singer  
Charles Stahl  
Wendi Stemple  
Corky Thacker  
Mimi Verberg

Betty Weber  
Brenda & Jaimie Wells

Bill Wofford

### **Those We Know in the Military**

Bill Bobowicz  
Stephen Cline  
Jason Hildebrandt  
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline  
Jason Strater  
Brendon

### **The Departed**

Tom Clark  
Nancy Dittebrand  
Bonnie O'Donnell  
Mursay Pratt

Ronald Pratt  
Victor Ruggiero  
Jean Stedfeld  
Bob Tremlin

### **Pledges and offerings to the Church.**

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

*or*

**YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!**

At [theascensionshop.com](http://theascensionshop.com) you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to [crowdes@gmail.com](mailto:crowdes@gmail.com).)

## **Please do not come to church if you are not feeling well.**

All will be required to wear a mask and keep a social distance of 6 feet. Please bring your own mask. Masks will be available if you forget to bring one.

Hand sanitizer will be provided, and you are asked to use it. It is recommended that you have your own hand sanitizer as well.

There will be no coffee hour following the services at this time. People may socialize at a safe distance outside on the lawn or in the garden.

8am service will be held in the West Garden weather permitting. Otherwise it will be in Ascension Hall. Those attending 8am service are asked to enter the building through the West Entrance unless the assistance of the elevator is required. When calling ahead please specify whether you will bring your own chair or need one to be provided for outdoor worship.

10:30am service will be in the church. Those attending 10:30 service are asked to enter and exit through the front doors in the Narthex. As a rule we will enter via the center aisle, and exit via the side aisles maintaining social distance. Those requiring the assistance of the elevator are welcome to enter and exit through the East Entrance.

All these things may seem to be a burden and to diminish our experience of worship. The devil, the power of evil, wants us to be discouraged and to give up hope. We need to be mindful that we worship God as our Creator and Redeemer and that all our hope on God is founded! We will not give up gathering as the Body of Christ simply because it is less than ideal. Remember we follow a Lord who was terribly inconvenienced by the crucifixion but in the end rose from the dead and freed us from death and despair. So in this season we gladly bear the burden of keeping each other and ourselves safe while simultaneously worshipping God and bearing witness to the world of God's unwavering love.

### **Church of the Ascension**

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