



# *Church of the Ascension*

*November 22, 2020*

*The Last Sunday after  
Pentecost: Christ the King*

*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*

*November 22, 2020*

*The Last Sunday After*

*Pentecost: Christ the King*

*Holy Eucharist, Rite 19, 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:** Variations on *Hyfrydol*

Michael Larkin

**Opening Hymn:** Lead on, O King Eternal

H555

Lead on, O King eternal,  
the day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
thy tents shall be our home:  
through days of preparation  
thy grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.

## **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.***

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

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

**Song of Praise: Glory to God (*Gloria in Excelsis*)** *BCP 356*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

### **The Collect for the Last Sunday after Pentecost**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*People sit for the reading of the lessons*

The LORD God then said:

I will look for my sheep and take care of them myself, just as a shepherd looks for lost sheep. My sheep have been lost since that dark and miserable day when they were scattered throughout the nations. But I will rescue them and bring them back from the foreign nations where they now live. I will be their shepherd and will let them graze on Israel's mountains and in the valleys and fertile fields. They will be safe as they feed on grassy meadows and green hills. I promise to take care of them and keep them safe, to look for those that are lost and bring back the ones that wander off, to bandage those that are hurt and protect the ones that are weak. I will also slaughter those that are fat and strong, because I always do right.

The LORD God said to his sheep, the people of Israel:

I will carefully watch each one of you to decide which ones are the strong sheep and which ones are weak. Some of you eat the greenest grass, then trample down what's left when you finish. Others drink clean water, then step in the water to make the rest of it muddy. That means my other sheep have nothing fit to eat or drink.

So I, the LORD God, will separate you strong sheep from the weak. You strong ones have used your powerful horns to chase off those that are weak, but I will rescue them and no longer let them be mistreated. I will separate the good from the bad.

After that, I will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David. All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you. He will be your leader, and I will be your God. I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

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

**Psalm 95:1-7a (spoken)**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD!

Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> ***Let's come before him with thanks!***

***Let's shout songs of joy to him!***

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is a great God,  
the great king over all other gods.  
<sup>4</sup> *The earth's depths are in his hands;  
the mountain heights belong to him;*  
<sup>5</sup> the sea, which he made, is his  
along with the dry ground,  
which his own hands formed.

<sup>6</sup> *Come, let's worship and bow down!  
Let's kneel before the LORD, our maker!*

<sup>7</sup> He is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the sheep in his hands.

## A Reading from Ephesians

1:15-23

I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. So I never stop being grateful for you, as I mention you in my prayers. I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God. My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people.

I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven. There Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well. God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything. The church is Christ's body and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything.

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

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

*The people stand*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

*Presider*     The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according  
                  to **Matthew** **25:31-46**

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

When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, "My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created. When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me."

Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?"

The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Then the king will say to those on his left, "Get away from me! You are under God's curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat, and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me, and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear. I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me."

Then the people will ask, “Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?”

The king will say to them, “Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me.”

Then Jesus said, “Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life.”

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

*The people sit*

**The Sermon**

*Rev. Vincent Black*

*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

BCP 360

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider and People*

***Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. 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

*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

**Offertory Music:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed

H616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

*The people stand*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

*BCP 367*

*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 proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## **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 he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people stand or kneel Presider continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People* (*spoken*)

***We remember Christ's death,***

***We proclaim Christ's resurrection,***

***We await Christ's coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and

his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for 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**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*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:** I Will Arise

arr. Austin C. Lovelace

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me with his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
mount of God's redeeming love.

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me with his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

**Post Communion Music:** O Lord Hear My Prayer      Jacques Berthier  
Taizé

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
When I call, answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
Come and listen to me.

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*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

**Postcommunion Prayer**      BCP 366

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Blessing

**Closing Hymn:**      Crown Him with Many Crowns      H494

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own;  
awake, my soul, and sing of him  
who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.



*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 love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

**Voluntary:** Recessional on *Hyfrydol*

Gordon Young

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

† † †

## **Thanksgiving**

There will be a Thanksgiving Eucharist at 10:30am

There will be a food distribution at noon by the east door,

For those attending the Eucharist please park in the West or North lots if able so as to avoid congestion in the parking lots.



## **The Ministers of the Liturgy**

Presider: Rev. Vincent Black

Organist: Jon Peterson

Soloist: Margie Hildebrandt

Acolyte: Derek Lewallen

Readers: Corky Thacker

Ushers: Roger Barnhard and Jeff Sommer

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.

## **24 hour mental health professionals available**

If you are feeling anxious, depressed, overwhelmed the State of Ohio has made 24 mental health professionals available for phone calls or text messaging. We have listed these numbers on our sign in front of the church as well to share with the wider community. Please spread the word.

Mental health help  
1-800-720-9616  
or text 4hope  
to 741 741

## **Noonday prayer Tuesdays at 12:12pm via conference call**

On Tuesdays there will be a conference call enabling you to call in and join Father Vincent and other members of our Ascension community for:

- Noonday Prayer (10 minutes),
- A reflection from Forward Day by Day (5 minutes),
- Time for us to check-in with each other (20 minutes),
- Time to ask questions and exchange information (10 minutes),
- Prayer for the Church of the Ascension.

This will give everyone access to our priest and allow us to continue together in prayer and fellowship.

**We will start prayer promptly at 12:12, and end just before 1pm.  
Please do not call in before 12:05pm.**

You can call in for all or part of the time.

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6300

Access code: 593523#

Use \*6 to mute and un-mute yourself when trying to talk.

We will use the Book of Common Prayer pp. 103-107.

## **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 and we will start with a new prayer list next week, the first Sunday of Advent. For those wanting to add or remove people from the prayer list please call the office.

**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  
Jen Black  
Raymond Black  
Teddi Black  
Carolyn Borsini  
Larry Carey  
Joseph Chite  
Elizabeth Ciemins  
Steve Conrad  
Karen Cooper  
Linda Cramer  
Joe Crichton  
Carol Culp  
Robert Dibb  
Laura Egeland  
Don Farrell  
Anne Ferguson  
Bill Fickinger  
Dan Filer  
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh  
Linda Gardner  
Jill Golden  
Dee Ann Harney

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  
Diane Welfley

Brenda & Jaimie Wells

Bill Wofford

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

Stephen Cline

Sydney Kline

Jason Hildebrandt

Jason Strater

McDowell (Mac) Jones

Brendon

## **The Departed**

Marion Gardner

## **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).)

Attention Shawl Ministry

Shawl meetings will be suspended due to recent surge in Covid 19 numbers. We will continue to distribute shawls during this (hopefully) short-lived suspension in meetings.

Members will be notified when we are able to resume meeting and are encouraged to keep knitting.

## **2021 Major Repairs Needed (Apart from the Operating Budget)**

### **Expenses**

Loan for Roof Flashings Replacement & Interior Plaster/Painting Repairs in the Nave*	\$28,114
HVAC Maintenance Repairs (avoid service interruptions)	2,000
Repairs of Rotted Wood & Stucco, West Exterior of Church (Ballpark; getting quotes)	10,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$40,114</b>

\* Water leaks along improperly installed roof flashings for the two gables behind the parapet walls of the church are causing extensive interior damage to the nave's balcony area and are beginning to cause damage to the sanctuary wall behind the altar. The cause of the damage was diagnosed last November by a structural engineer, and temporary sealant was applied that worked until this summer, but now plaster is falling from the balcony wall. The sealant above the altar wall appears to still be working, but we need to fix those areas quickly. At present, the painter can do some minor clean-up of small areas using a ladder that won't interfere with worship. If we wait, we risk major damage like that in the balcony, which would be much more expensive (likely \$15,000 or more) and would require scaffolding that would need to be in place for the weeks that such a project would entail. We would be unable to worship in the nave during that period.

The Diocese of Ohio agreed that we must do the repairs NOW, and is supporting Ascension's \$84,344 project with a grant of \$28,114 (one-third of the cost) and a loan of one-third. Parishioners' up-front donations of \$28,114 provided the other third. Work is beginning on the roof flashings.

**\$28,114** is the amount needed to pay off the loan immediately for this emergency project. It is a 5-year loan with monthly payments of \$524.13. We will need **at least \$6,289.56 in donations for 2021 payments, which are not included in our operating budget.** If we just make payments for the next five years, the total cost will be **\$31,448 due to interest.**

We typically raise two-thirds of the cost of major repairs and apply to the Diocese for grants only to avoid paying interest. Please prayerfully consider making an extra donation to pay for this vital repair! An anonymous donor has offered \$10,000 toward this project **as a match to parishioners' donations of \$10,000.** Please prayerfully consider making an additional gift in the space on your pledge card and note "Roof flashings" in the blank for project(s). If you'd like to donate to more than one project, kindly note the amount intended for each. We will need parishioners' donations for all three of the projects on the list.

## **Pledge Campaign**

Our pledge campaign ends today. The theme this year is faith filled generosity. Packets have been mailed out, and are available on our website as well,

We ask that you pledge so that we can make our budget for 2021. Please prayerfully consider what God may be asking of you. You can send your pledge cards in by mail, place them in the offering plate, or put them in the box in the office.

## **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.

8 and 10:30am services will be in the church. As a rule we will enter via the center aisle, and exit via the side aisles maintaining social distance.

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 worshiping God and bearing witness to the world of God's unwavering love.

**If you plan on attending church in person please register at <https://ascensionregistration.eventbrite.com> before 12pm on the day before.**

### **Church of the Ascension**

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