



Church of the Ascension

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30am

Welcome to the Church of the Ascension

We are pleased to have you worship with us.

By entering Church of the Ascension and by your presence here (indoors and outdoors), you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media for Church of the Ascension and the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. If you do not agree to the foregoing, please request to be seated in the no camera area.

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

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.

If visiting or new please fill in, tear out,
and drop in collection plate

Name

email address

Phone number

Mailing address



Church of the Ascension

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist, 10:30am

Rite II, Expansive language

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

When the Voluntary begins, please maintain prayerful silence.

Voluntary: Ecossaise

Ludwig Van Beethoven, arr. K. Griesinger
The Ascension String Ensemble

Opening Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

H616

Tune: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvoegelein*

*1 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.*

*2 He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.*

*3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.*

*4 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.*

*5 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all blessing and all blest;
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love.*

The lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

Presider Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe.

People ***You sent Jesus Christ to be the Light of the world
and to spread light and love to all people.***

Presider Let us pray.

***May the ever increasing brightness of this wreath be a sign to us of
the approaching nearness of Christ, that we might prepare in joy
for the humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive our
Messiah at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.***

Welcome

Opening Acclamation *(The people standing)*

BCP 355

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

Song of Praise Lord, Have Mercy

St. James Kyrie

Tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy upon us.

God the Lord, the Savior gave us,

Jesus Christ is born to save us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Presider God be with you.

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

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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

A Reading from Isaiah

11:1-10

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.
The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
He will delight in fearing the Lord.
He won't judge by appearances,
nor decide by hearsay.
He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.
He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;
by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.
Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,
and faithfulness the belt around his waist.
The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.
The cow and the bear will graze.
Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.
A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.
They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.
The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
just as the water covers the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to the peoples. The nations will seek him out, and his dwelling will be glorious.

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

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

Reader We will stand and sing the psalm.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (*metric text*)

Tune: *St. Stephen* (H73)

(The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns)

***1. Send us, O God, the One whose reign
Will make your justice known,
Who will deal fairly with your land,
The poor, and all your own,***

***2. Who will defend the needy poor
And make oppression cease;
Let every mountain, every hill,
Bring righteousness and peace.***

***3. Send us the One who will endure
While sun and moon remain
And who will come like springtime showers
And as refreshing rain.***

***4. In that day let all those who live
In righteousness increase,
And till the moon shall be no more,
Let there be ample peace.***

***5. Blessed be God, and blessed be
God's holy Name again;
And may God's glory fill the earth.
Amen, amen, amen!***

The people sit.

Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures. May the God of endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude toward each other, similar to Christ Jesus' attitude. That way you can glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ together with one voice.

So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory. I'm saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors, and so that the Gentiles could glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*Because of this I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and I will sing praises to your name.*

And again, it says,

Rejoice, Gentiles, with his people.

And again,

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and all the people should sing his praises.*

And again, Isaiah says,

*There will be a root of Jesse,
who will also rise to rule the Gentiles.
The Gentiles will place their hope in him.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

The people stand

*1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.*

*2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
 according to **Matthew**

3:1-12

People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.”*

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be

baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I’m not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

Presider The Gospel of our Savior.

People say: ***Praise to you, O Christ***

Hymn: **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

H67 vs 3
Tune: Psalm 42

*3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.*

The people sit

The Sermon

Rev. Peter Faass

The people 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, Form VI

BCP 392

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 Archbishop-designate Dame Sarah Mullally, Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Anne, our Bishop; Peter, our supply priest; Clarke, our seminarian; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

In the Diocese of Ohio, we pray for St. Peter's Church, Lakewood, and for Clergy in Non-Parochial Ministries;

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 Sovereign God;

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.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to
do your will; 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

BCP 360

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.

For those celebrating birthdays

Alex DeJesus

Bill Rice

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 Announcements

The presider asks visitors to fill out the information at the bottom of page 2, then highlights the announcements.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Offertory: Isaiah the Prophet

Joy Patterson
Tune: *Samanthra*

1 Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
The peoples be led forth in peace.
For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the seas.

2 Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world.
And conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn grow wild.
Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth,
when no one shall hurt or destroy.
When wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy.

All stand

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Offerings

*The gifts of the people are presented at this time
as the congregation sings.*

Presentation Hymn: The Doxology **Tune: Herr Jesu Christ (H310)**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

The people remain standing

Presider May God 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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

St. James Sanctus

Tune: Jesus, Our Brother, Kind and Good

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

The people stand or kneel and the Presider continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People (spoken)

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

People and Presider

***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

St. James Agnus Dei

Tune: What Child Is This?

***O lamb of God, O Holy Child,
Who takes the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, lamb so mild,
The babe, the son of Mary.
This, this is your body given,
Your precious blood, the gift of heaven.
Take, eat, for we are one
In the babe, the son of Mary.***

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.

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: Dona Nobis Pacem

Barbara Wallace

***Dona nobis pacem, pacem,
dona nobis pacem...
Amen, amen.***

Postcommunion Music:

St. James Kyrie

Tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

***Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
God the Lord the Savior gave us,
Jesus Christ is born to save us.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.***

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Postcommunion Prayer *(said by all, standing)*

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: Prepare the Way, O Zion

H65

Tune: Berendan vag for Herran

*1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.*

Refrain:

*O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.*

*2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.*

*Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding. [Refrain]*

*3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.*

*All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.*

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 the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Voluntary: Musette

Gordon Young

† † †

We hope you will join us in Ascension Hall for some refreshments and conversation. Ascension Hall is located on this level through the chapel and at the end of the hallway.

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

Our Spiritual Leaders:

+ Sean -our Presiding Bishop; **+ Anne** -our Bishop;
Clarke -our seminarian

Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Abbie & her unborn child
Shirley Campion
Doug Damron
Ray D'Arcy
Kaisu Donovan
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh
Hope Hungerford
Boots Johnston
Emily Junkans
Joyce Knapp
June Madden

Penelope Neujahr
Gil Newlands
Corey Niebes
Sandy Reagan
Michael Redmond
Wendie Semple
Madelaine Tammoney
Corky Thacker
Ron Weiss
Diane Welfley

Those We Know in the Military

Wiley Goins
Lauren Hober
Sydney Kline

Burton McCarthy
Jason Strater

The Departed

Ralph Barbato
Mickey Black
Teddi Black
Lenore Heller

Joseph R. Hildebrandt
Pamela Jackson
Patricia Sayler

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.

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



Use your smart phone to scan the code above or visit ascension-lakewood.org where you can make a one-time donation or set up continuing donations.

Please join us in helping to keep
The Church of the Ascension strong
and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

Remembering Past Parishioners
Celebrating 150 years of ministry
1875 – 2025



Harold Edward Braun (1915-2002)
Velma Mae Beal Braun (1918-1996)

Harold was born on August 30, 1915, in Dover, Ohio. He was the son of Edward and Antionette Wagner Braun. His parents were Russian born, German-speaking immigrants. He went to public schools in Dover and graduated in 1933 from Dover High School. He enjoyed sports and played on the basketball team, which played in the State Championship. After high school, Harold Braun studied at Muskingum College, where he enjoyed being in orchestra, band and playing basketball and running cross country. He also excelled in ministerial groups on campus.

It was at Muskingum College that Harold Braun and another student became acquainted. Velma Mae Beal was studying to be an English and Home Economics teacher. Harold E. Braun married Velma M. Beal on May 28, 1942, in Guernsey, Ohio. Together they had three children: Christine, Douglas and Constance.

Harold became a Methodist minister and served as such for ten years in Brunswick, Ohio. During World War II, Harold Braun served his country in the Navy as a chaplain on the General Howe in the South Pacific.

In December 1953, he was ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church and the following year ordained to the priesthood in June 1954. In July 1955, he completed two years as a curate of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood, Ohio and was then named rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oregon, Ohio. In 1968, Rev. Braun was called to return to Lakewood, Ohio but this time to Church of the Ascension. He began work at Ascension on September 15, 1968.

During his time at Ascension, there were many changes. Rev. Braun made it clear from the beginning that he ran a tight ship and was a strong leader. Not everyone adjusted to the changes easily. The organist and Christian Educator both left during his early time. Our first female on vestry, Barb Fludine, was welcomed to vestry one year after Braun arrived in Lakewood and just a few years later our first female as Senior Warden, Mary Lindenstruth, was elected. In 1976, women finally had the right to become clergy, which was actually upsetting to some parishioners. Throughout his time at Ascension and no matter what the financial issue might be, Rev. Braun had a wonderful talent of helping people in the community open their hearts, minds and wallets for the church. He was an outgoing and fun character, known to enjoy a drink and smoke his pipe with the men of the church, as well as golf or bowling.

Velma Braun took the position as minister's wife to heart. She sat in the front pew every Sunday and was there to help in any and every way. She was known to play the organ and piano at services if needed. She would cook holiday meals for parishioners who might not have family with whom to celebrate. She was known to keep the kitchen and washrooms of the church spotless, simply because she felt it was the right thing to do. When their daughter Constance (known as Connie), married at Church of the Ascension, Velma Braun demonstrated her powers of multitasking. She sewed not only the wedding dress for her daughter but also all of the dresses for the bride's maids.

Around the time of his retirement, a group of parishioners made donations for the large stained-glass window, which is now found above the altar. It was then that the rood beam was moved so as not to block the beauty of the new window. In the summer of 1987, the church said goodbye to the Brauns when Rev. Braun retired. After retirement from Church of the Ascension, Rev. Braun served as interim director in Gates Mills, Ohio and Belleville, Ohio. Rev. Braun dedicated fifty years of service to the Episcopal Church.

Velma passed away on September 18, 1996. Rev. Harold Braun died on April 8, 2002. They are buried in Fort Meigs Cemetery in Perrysburg, Ohio. On June 8, 2014, needlepoint kneelers that parishioners from Church of the Ascension spent time, energy and resources creating, were installed and dedicated in memory of Velma Beal Braun. Her loving, Christian, and forgiving nature was and is still remembered by many parishioners at our church.

Submitted by Gregory Sent, Archivist



The Ministers of the Liturgy

Presider: Rev. Peter Faass

Music Director and Organist: Jon Peterson

Choir Director: Margie Hildebrandt

Acolytes: Derek Lewallen, Terrie Schade, Seth Clemens

Readers: Cara Clemens, Alex DeJesus

Spiritual Eucharist Reader: Cara Clemens

Chalice Bearers: Derek Lewallen, Terrie Schade

Ushers: Adam Clemens, Bob Hankey

Videographer: Gigi Evans

Graphics & Post-production: Bill Rice

The Ascension String Ensemble

Cara Clemens, Director: violin

Seth Clemens: violin

David Sent: viola

Charlotte Sent: cello



The flowers on the chapel altar are given to the glory of God
in memory of Rev. Harold and Velma Braun.

Bible readings from the Common English Bible (CEB)
A New Metrical Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition

© 2011, Common English Bible
Christopher L. Webber
© Church Publishing, Incorporated

H65 Words: Charles P. Price © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Isaiah the Prophet Words: Joy F. Patterson ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Samantha Music: arr. Robert Shaw & Alice Parker ©1961 Alfred Publishing

Ecossaise from 25 Easy String Pieces Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. K. Griesinger

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Musette Music: Gordon Young © 1983 Fred Bock Music Company

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Dona Nobis Pacem

Music: arr. Barbara Wallace © 2010 St. James Music Press

St. James Christmas Service Music: Mark Schweizer © 2004 St. James Music Press

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Sesquicentennial Memorabilia

Make sure to get your anniversary mementos for sale outside the parish office. Items include bags, ornaments, magnets, and magnets. Limited supply.

150th Anniversary Cookbook Available!

150th Anniversary Cookbooks: A Slice of History with photos, recipes, and biographies spanning the years!
Now available for a minimum donation of \$20.00.

150th Anniversary History Available!

Get a history of the 150 years of Church of the Ascension!
Now available for a minimum donation of \$20.00.

All purchases and donations can be made via the following QR Code:



Evening Prayer in Church

Wednesdays, 7-7:30pm, in the nave.

Holiday Calendar

Sat,	December 13 th	Cookie Walk	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Sun,	December 14 th	Carols and Cocoa	5:00pm
Sun,	December 21 st	Lessons and Carols	4:00 pm
Sun,	December 21 st	Christmas Dinner	6:00 pm
Thurs,	December 25 th	Holy Eucharist	10:30 am
Sun,	December 29 th	Favorite Carol Sing	10:30 am

Supply Priest Schedule through January

December 7 th	Fr. Peter Faass
December 14 th	Fr. John Keller
December 21 st	Fr. Keith Owen
December 25 th	
(Christmas)	Fr. Keith Owen
December 28 th	Fr. Keith Owen
January 4 th	Fr. Keith Owen
January 11 th	Fr. Peter Faass
January 18 th	Fr. John Keller
January 25 th	Fr. Peter Faass

Cookie Walk

The cookie walk is coming up! It will be on **Saturday, December 13th, in Strom Hall from 9am – 2pm** or until sold out.

A variety of delicious cookies will be available, sold by the pound. We will also have wonderful centerpieces and items from the Holiday Market, all made by our very own parishioners.

We will accept payment with cash or credit card.

Please invite family and friends! It's a good way to try new cookies, make gift boxes, and get cookies if you don't bake.

COOKIE WALK HELP NEEDED

Please consider baking. The more cookies we have to sell the more we will raise for Church of the Ascension.

Not a baker? We need help on the evening before and the day of the sale – setting up, helping customers choose their cookies, check out/collect payment and clean up.

Would you like to help setup? We will set up tables in Strom Hall on Friday evening (12/12 at 6pm) with table cloths and plates. The more we get done Friday the less we need to get done Saturday. We will need set up volunteers for the morning of the cookie walk – should arrive at 8 am.

Would you like to help customer get their cookies? Volunteers are needed. We will have gloves for those people giving out cookies to use. We will have bags or boxes for the customers to use. Scales will be available to check quantity and to weigh out at the end of their purchase in two locations.

Would you like to help clean up? We will need help cleaning up after the event around 2pm.

Carols and Cocoa

On Sunday, December 14th at 5pm, we will have outdoor caroling and cocoa on the front lawn.

Please invite family and friends!

Altar Flowers for Christmas

We create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plants which adorn the altars and the chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of loved ones. Place your contributions in the envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with “Christmas flowers” in the memo line or cash) and list those you want to remember on the form provided next to the box for the contributions. Or send your donation online and an email to secretary@ascension-lakewood.org. The amount of each gift is determined by the donor.

The deadline for making gifts to the fund and placing names on the remembrance list is December 17th.

Following the 10:30 service on Christmas Day plants are distributed to parishioners who due to ill health or disability are unable to attend worship.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

On **Sunday, December 21st at 4pm**, we will have our service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, followed by a Christmas feast. Please sign up in the office.

There will be no 8am service on **December 21st**.

**Favorite Carol Sing after Communion
on December 29th at 10:30.**

Office Hours

Office Hours are: 9am – 1:30pm, Tuesday – Thursday

Noonday prayer

Tuesdays at 12:12pm via conference call

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.

Centering Prayer

We meet every Thursday from noon to 12:45 in Ascension Hall.

For more information call or email the Parish Administrator

216-521-8727 Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org.

Eucharistic Visit

If you are unable to attend church and would like to request Holy Communion to be brought to you please call or email the Parish

Administrator 216-521-8727 Jim.Weiss@ascension-lakewood.org

Information for live streamed worship.

The service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am
on The Church of the Ascension website:

<https://ascension-lakewood.org/>

and on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4rs872e2>.

Previous services and featured choir videos on YouTube
at: <https://tinyurl.com/3c336j6n>.

Church of the Ascension

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