



## *Church of the Ascension*

*December 21, 2025*

*Fourth 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.

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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 21, 2025*

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Holy Eucharist, 10:30am*

*Rite 19, 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:** Medley on *Veni Emmanuel* Wilbur Held & John Ferguson

**Opening Hymn:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**H56**

**Tune:** *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

***1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.***

***Refrain:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***5 O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]***

*6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [Refrain]*

*7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of Peace. [Refrain]*

### **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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Presider* God be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

*People sit for the reading of the lessons*

### A Reading from Isaiah

7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign from the Lord your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven.”

But Ahaz said, “I won’t ask; I won’t test the Lord.”

Then Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Isn’t it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.

*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 80:1-7, 16-18** (*metric text*)

**Tune: Winchester New (H76)**  
**(On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry)**

***1. O Shepherd, like a flock you lead  
Your people Isræl; hear our prayer;  
Enthroned upon the cherubim  
In glory, shine on our despair.***

2. *Before Manasseh, Benjamin,  
And Ephraim, Lord, grant us your grace;  
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts,  
And show the glory of your face.*
3. *How long will you be angered, Lord,  
Although we kneel before your feet?  
You give us bowls of tears to drink,  
Provide us bread of tears to eat.*
4. *Our enemies laugh us to scorn,  
Our neighbors witness our disgrace;  
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts,  
Show us the glory of your face.*
5. *Let your almighty hand defend  
The people you have called your own;  
The nation you have made so strong  
That they might honor you alone.*

*The people sit.*

## **A Reading from Romans**

**1:1-7**

From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news. God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to faithful obedience for his name's sake. You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles.

To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. |
| <i>People</i> | <b><i>Thanks be to God.</i></b>                 |

*The people stand*

**Sequence Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came H265 vs 1,2**

**Tune: *Gabriel's Message***

*1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

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

**1:18-25**

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

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel.*

*(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

*Presider*      The Gospel of our Savior.

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

**Hymn:**      **The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**      **H265 vs 3,4**  
**Tune:** *Gabriel's Message*

*3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say--  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*The people sit*

**The Sermon**

*Rev. Keith Owen*

*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; Keith, 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 the West Mission Area: St. Mark's Church, Sidney; All Saints Church, Toledo; St. Andrew's Church, Toledo; St. Matthew's Church, Toledo; St. Michael's in the Hills Church, Toledo; and Trinity Church, Toledo;

***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 in the name of the Lord.*

## For those celebrating birthdays

Will Hober

Terrie Schade

*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:** To a Virgin Meek and Mild

*Lo Desembre Congelat,*  
ed. David N. Johnson

1 To a virgin meek and mild  
came an angel holy,  
greeting her, the undefiled,  
in her chamber lowly:  
Hail, to thee, thou blessed one,  
chosen mother of God's Son!  
Through a wondrous birth he shall come to earth,  
and shall reign as a King,  
as a King forever,  
Jesus, blessed Savior.

2 By the sages long foretold,  
now the day is nearing;  
promises of God unfold,  
in the Son appearing.  
He the child of Bethlehem,  
branch divine of Jesse's stem,

shall have great increase  
as the Prince of Peace,  
and the earth shall be filled with the Lord's salvation,  
Hope of every nation.

*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*

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

*BCP 361*

*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:** How Bright Appears the Morning Star

**H497**

**Tune: *Wie schön leuchtet***

*1 How bright appears the Morning Star,  
with mercy beaming from afar;  
the host of heaven rejoices;*

*O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!  
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!  
We, too, will lift our voices:  
Jesus, Jesus!  
Holy, holy,  
yet most lowly,  
draw thou near us;  
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.*

*2 Though circled by the hosts on high,  
he deigned to cast a pitying eye  
upon his helpless creature;  
the whole creation's Head and Lord,  
by highest seraphim adored,  
assumed our very nature;  
Jesus, grant us,  
through thy merit,  
to inherit  
thy salvation;  
hear, O hear our supplication.*

*3 Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply;  
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,  
for this his Incarnation.  
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,  
ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
till all know thy salvation.  
Amen, amen!  
Alleluia,  
alleluia!  
Praise be given  
evermore, by earth and heaven.*

*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:**    Fantasy on *Wachet auf*

Charles Callahan

†            †            †

**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 | Emily Junkans      |
| Shirley Campion          | Joyce Knapp        |
| Doug Damron              | June Madden        |
| Ray D'Arcy               | Penelope Neujahr   |
| Robert Dibb              | Gil Newlands       |
| Kaisu Donovan            | Corey Niebes       |
| Barbara Faux             | Sandy Reagan       |
| Spencer Faux             | Michael Redmond    |
| Stephanie Foster         | Wendie Semple      |
| Ella Jane Fowerbaugh     | Madelaine Tammoney |
| Hope Hungerford          | Corky Thacker      |
| Boots Johnston           | Diane Welfley      |

**Those We Know in the Military**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Wiley Goins  | Burton McCarthy |
| Lauren Hober | Jason Strater   |
| Sydney Kline |                 |

**The Departed**

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Ralph Barbato | Joseph R. Hildebrandt |
| Mickey Black  | Pamela Jackson        |
| Teddi Black   | Patricia Sayler       |
| Lenore Heller |                       |

## **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](https://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**



Rev. Stuart Gottlieb Cole (1902 -1987)  
Doris Mary Lyons Cole (1905-1973)

Stuart G. Cole was born on November 21, 1902, in Elmira, New York to Frank and Rose Cole. He was baptized and confirmed in Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira, where he served as a choirboy and acolyte. He later studied at and was a graduate of Hobart College in 1925 and later earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Kenyon College in 1928. The same year he was ordained a Deacon in Elmira, NY on April 11, 1928, and served as a curate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse, NY and at the same time was also a priest in charge of two other parishes in two nearby towns.

On July 14, 1930, Rev. Stuart Cole married Doris Mary Lyons in St. Stephen's Church in Rochester, New York. Together they had two sons: Stuart Hadley and David Charles. In 1932 he answered a call to be rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Seneca Falls, New York. In 1939 he was called to serve as Chaplain and Director of Guidance for Hobart and William Smith Colleges. He was also an assistant professor of philosophy and religion, coach

of the freshman lacrosse team and. During his time there with the outbreak of World War II, he became Chaplain and counselor for the U. S. Navy V-12 officer-training program on the campus.

In December of 1944, he became the rector of Church of the Ascension in Rochester, NY until he became rector of Church of the Ascension in Lakewood, Ohio in 1949. Two years after Rev. Cole and his family came to Lakewood, a major renovation of the front of the church occurred. It was during this time that the large Rose window was placed on the front of the church and not long after the stained-glass windows on the main floor were installed. He remained in Lakewood for 20 years. During his time in Lakewood, he was recognized for his devotion and work in Ohio and New York when in 1954 he was awarded two honorary degrees. He was awarded a Doctor of Sacred Theology from Hobart College and a Doctor of Divinity from Kenyon College. From then on, he was known as Dr. Cole by all at Church of the Ascension. The same year (1954), Ascension Hall was built over the gymnasium.

Dr. Cole was known for his extreme devotion to the parish, being available daily and at any time. He was known for his sermons that connected Scripture and related it to real life. He was an outgoing personality, who could preach a moving service but also could deliver a very worldly joke. Cards, drinks and cigars were all common staples for the vestrymen especially when they traveled together.

On May 16, 1964, Dr. Cole presided over the wedding of his son, David, who married at Church of the Ascension. After serving Church of the Ascension since 1949, Dr. Cole retired on June 30, 1968. He was remembered by so many parishioners as being as close to perfection as they could remember.

Dr. Cole and his wife moved to Bay Village after retirement. Doris passed away on February 4, 1973. After the death of his wife, Dr. Cole moved to California to be closer to his children and grandchildren. Dr. Stuart Cole passed away on March 13, 1987, in Alhambra, California. Dr. Stuart G. Cole and Doris were buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Horseheads, New York.



### **The Ministers of the Liturgy**

Presider: Rev. Keith Owen  
Music Director and Organist: Jon Peterson  
Choir Director: Margie Hildebrandt  
Acolytes: Jan Bednarski, Terrie Schade  
Readers: Ann Beyer, Ann Pesta  
Spiritual Eucharist Reader: Ann Beyer  
Chalice Bearers: Jan Bednarski, Terrie Schade  
Ushers: Keira Dodd, Joe Sgambellone  
Videographer: Dave Champion  
Graphics & Post-production: Bill Rice



The flowers on the chapel altar are given to the glory of God  
in memory of Rev. Stuart and Doris Cole.

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

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Christopher L. Webber  
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Gloria Deo Book 1 Music: David N. Johnson © 1967 Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
Oh, Come, Emmanuel Music: Wilbur Held © 1959 Concordia Publishing House  
Veni Emmanuel Music: John Ferguson © 1997 Augsburg Fortress  
*Wachet auf* from the Art of Hymn Playing Music: Charles Callahan  
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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, mugs, and magnets. Limited supply.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook Available!**

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

### **150<sup>th</sup> 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:



### **Supply Priest Schedule through January**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| December 21 <sup>st</sup>                | Fr. Keith Owen  |
| December 25 <sup>th</sup><br>(Christmas) | Fr. Keith Owen  |
| December 28 <sup>th</sup>                | Fr. Keith Owen  |
| January 4 <sup>th</sup>                  | Fr. Keith Owen  |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup>                 | Fr. Peter Faass |
| January 18 <sup>th</sup>                 | Fr. John Keller |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup>                 | Fr. Peter Faass |

## Evening Prayer in Church

Wednesdays, 7-7:30pm, in the nave. We will have Evening Prayer on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

## Holiday Calendar

|        |                           |                     |          |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Sun,   | December 21 <sup>st</sup> | Lessons and Carols  | 4:00 pm  |
| Sun,   | December 21 <sup>st</sup> | Christmas Dinner    | 6:00 pm  |
| Thurs, | December 25 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Eucharist      | 10:30 am |
| Sun,   | December 28 <sup>th</sup> | Favorite Carol Sing | 10:30 am |

## Office Holiday Closure

Please note that the Church Office will be closed beginning **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**, and will reopen on **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. During this period, I will not be checking email or voicemail.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact the Senior Warden, Joe Sgambellone.

All emails and voicemails will be addressed during the first week of January.

Yours in Christ,

**Jim Weiss**

Parish Administrator

## Centering Prayer

There will be no Centering Prayer on the following Thursdays: **December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will resume Centering Prayer on Thursday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## Noon Day Prayer:

There will be no Noon Day Prayer on Tuesday, **December 30<sup>th</sup>**. Noon Day Prayer will resume on Tuesday, **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## **Christmas Lessons and Carols**

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

## **Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival**

All are invited to attend the 62nd Presentation of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on **Sunday, December 28**, at 2:00 & 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral. Performances are open to the public and there is no ticketing. The Festival, a volunteer production, is a multi-sensory Elizabethan Christmas experience with pageantry and music that celebrates the light of Christ coming into the world. To learn more or volunteer, visit the [website](#) or call 216.774.0436. Questions, email [boarsheadfestival@hotmail.com](mailto:boarsheadfestival@hotmail.com).

## **Favorite Carol Sing after Communion on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>.**

There will be one service at 10:30. Lunch will be served after the service. Meeting begins after lunch, ending by 2:30 p.m.

**We will elect two members to serve on the Vestry.**

Nominations may be received from the floor when this action is called for.

**All Parishioners Are Expected to Attend**

### **Office Hours (note holiday hours on page 26)**

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

### **Noonday prayer (note holiday hours on page 26)**

**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 (note holiday hours on page 26)**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

13216 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio 44107

216.521.8727

[www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

[secretary@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:secretary@ascension-lakewood.org)