



For February the Ascension Book Group will continue to read *The Pillars of the Earth* (1989) by Ken Follett (b. 1949). In January we read the Prologue, Part I, and Part II. For February we are reading Part III - Part VI. This sweeping epic is set in the tumultuous era of 12th Century England, the narrative concerns the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. The ambitions of our lead characters merge, conflict, and collide through 40 years of social and political upheaval as internal church politics surrounded by the effects of the era known as "The Anarchy" that began at the death of King Henry I and had resounding effects through the reign of the usurper King Stephen into the reign of King Henry II affect the progress of the cathedral and the fortunes of the protagonists and their antagonists. Is the Church to be subservient to the Crown, or the Crown subservient to the Church? As the cathedral slowly rises on the shoulders of the deeply religious people of Kingsbridge, this question is constantly being explored in the daily and spiritual lives of each individual and how their individual beliefs reach into their spiritual growth and affect their deeds as their choices help to change the future directions of the Church and the Monarchy of England during the Middle Ages. The Ascension Book Group will meet on Sunday, March 3, 2019 between the coffee hour and Evensong to discuss the first part of *Pillars of the Earth*. Refreshments will be provided. For questions contact Ken Kelling at (773) 853-2337 or kjjjk07@gmail.com.

The Pillars of the Earth

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