



# Church of the Ascension

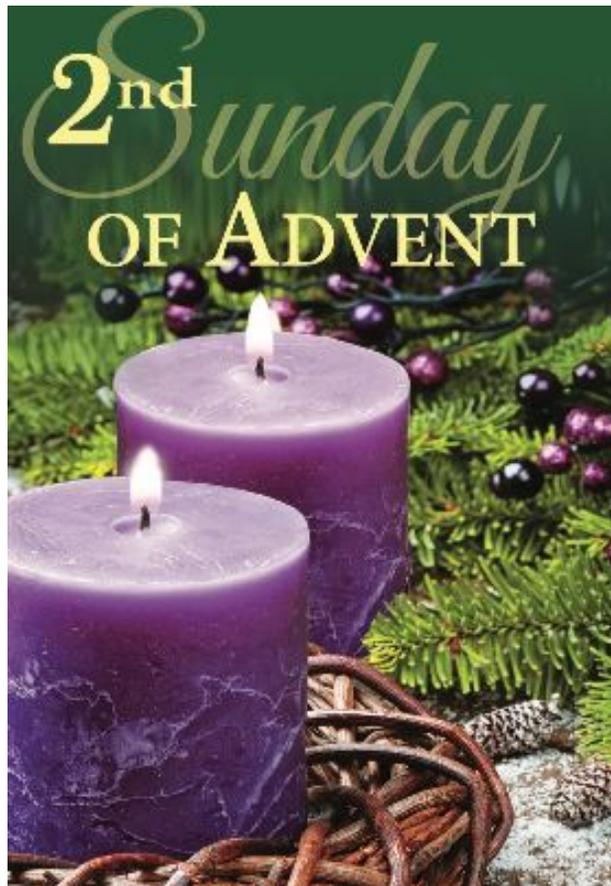
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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY

December 5, 2021

9:30 a.m.

RITE II



*☞ Inside the Church: Please silence your mobile devices during all services. ☞*

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*[www.ascensionfrankfort.org](http://www.ascensionfrankfort.org)*

*311 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY 40601  
~ Episcopal Diocese of Lexington ~*

*502-223-0557*

# WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Ascension offers a place of comfort, hope, and peace of mind. We are dedicated to spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are a welcoming and affirming community; we believe God accepts people of every race, culture, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, educational level and economic status... and so must we.

The only Episcopal church in Frankfort, Ascension is grounded in scripture, tradition, and reason. We hold God's word as sacred, follow the Book of Common Prayer in our worship, and respect the capacity of individuals to explore and discern the truth of God. We invite you to join us, and look forward to meeting you!

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** Children of all ages are truly welcome and encouraged to attend all church services with their parents. We understand that they have wiggles and need to move around, and we welcome them as part of our worship (noise included!). For the safety of all in our public space, never leave children unattended. Ask an usher about the availability of Nursery services and Godly Play classes for youth.

**RESTROOMS** are at the end of the main hallway (head for the choir stalls, then turn right). A gender-neutral, accessible restroom with a baby-changing table is in the middle of that hallway.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** If you would like someone from the church to contact you, we invite you to fill out a Visitor Card (available in your pew or from an usher). To receive our weekly online newsletter, either put your email address on a Visitor Card, or send us an email to [info@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:info@ascensionfrankfort.org) and we will add you to our list. We invite you to use your smartphone to check in at Ascension on our main Facebook page and also to check out our active Facebook group to see, share and discuss photos, events, announcements and more (search Facebook for *Ascension Frankfort*). Visit our web site at [www.ascensionfrankfort.org](http://www.ascensionfrankfort.org) to see our service schedules, event calendar, announcements, and to find more information about what we believe.

**THE PLACE OF WORSHIP:** As you enter our church, you will find an atmosphere of worship and reverence. The focus of worship in the Episcopal Church is the altar or holy table, and the cross. On and near the altar you will find candles to remind us that Christ is the "light of the world" (John 8:12). On both sides at the front of our church, you will see a lectern or a pulpit. On your right is the lectern where you will see and hear members of our congregation come forward and read from the Scriptures chosen for the service. The preacher usually stands at the pulpit on your left.

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP:** Episcopal or Anglican church services are congregational, or participatory. There will be much movement during the service; **you are welcome to sit, stand, or kneel – whatever is most comfortable for you and aids in your worship.** Feel free to ask an usher to connect you with a church member who would be delighted to sit with you. Also, an usher will hand you a printed program that describes each step in the service. In your pew you will find the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which enables you and the rest of the congregation to share fully in every service. You will also find Hymnals and Bibles in your pew; however, everything you need to follow the service is included in your bulletin.

Abbreviations used in our bulletin include:

- BCP – for the *Book of Common Prayer*
- Hymn (in front of a number) – for *Hymnal 1982*
- S (in front of a number) – Service Music, located in the front section of *Hymnal 1982*
- LEVAS – for *Lift Every Voice and Sing* hymnal
- WLP – for *Wonder, Love and Praise* hymnal

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The principal service in our church is the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion). All baptized Christians (of any denomination) are welcome to receive Communion at God's table; as your neighbors rise and go forward to partake, you may participate or not, according to your preference. To receive Communion, come forward and stand or kneel at the altar rail. As you kneel at the altar rail, you will be given a consecrated wafer and a taste of wine. As we continue to return to more "normal" worship practices we have begun using a common chalice again, *by intinction only* (aka "dipping your wafer in the cup"). If you prefer to receive a sip of wine rather than intinction, please let the deacons know before the service starts so that they can have an individual plastic communion cup set aside for you.

We do use alcoholic wine, which is blessed as the blood of Christ for Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing in lieu of Holy Communion, come to the altar rail and so indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need Communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST • RITE II

The Rev. Peter Doddema, *Priest* | The Rev. Dr. William G. Brown, *Assisting Priest Emeritus*  
The Rev. Deacon Rebecca A. Saager, *Curate* | The Rev. Deacon Susan E. Kurtz  
Mr. John B. Martin, *Director of Music & Organist*

*At this time, please continue to wear a mask. You may sing aloud with the mask ON.*

**Voluntary** Oh, come, Emmanuel Wilbur Held  
(1914-2015)

**Hymn in Procession** Prepare the way, O Zion *Bereden väg för Herran* Hymnal 65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



*Refrain*  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## The Word of God

### Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

*Presider*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All*

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### Collect for Purity

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.**

### The Gloria

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.**



**Canticle**

**Canticle 16**    *The Song of Zechariah*    *Benedictus Dominus Deus*    *Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*The Lector says*

**Second Lesson**

A Reading from The Letter of Paul to the Philippians 1:3-11

**The Letter of Paul to the Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

*All*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia. \*  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

*All* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Holy Gospel**

**The Gospel According to Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

*After the Reading, the Deacon says*

*All*

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

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Peter Doddema

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

*All* 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Leader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**All** That we all may be one.

*Leader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**All** That your Name may be glorified by all people.

*Leader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**All** That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

*Leader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**All** That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

*Leader* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**All** That our works may find favor in your sight.

*Leader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**All** That they may be delivered from their distress.

*Leader* Give to the departed eternal rest;

**All** Let light perpetual shine upon them.

*Leader* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**All** May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

*Leader* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

The Confession of Sin

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Minister 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 your Son 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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

And also with you.

*Greet each other without touching, and maintain 6' social distance.*

## The Holy Communion

*All Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing in lieu of Holy Communion, come to the altar rail and so indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.  
If you need Communion brought to you, please let an usher know.*

*As we continue to return to more "normal" worship practices, we have begun using a common chalice again, 'by intinction only' (aka "dipping your wafer in the cup"). If you prefer to receive a sip of wine rather than intinction, please let the deacons know before the service starts so that they can have an individual plastic communion cup set aside for you.*

*All stand as the offering is carried forward to the altar.*

## Offertory

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

*Ascension*

Hymnal 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee  
3 but the word of our God ——— en - du - reth, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst ——— of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The ———  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
flowers of the field they ——— per - ish, like  
feed his ——— flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our ——— God ——— may go!  
na - tions shall ——— pass like a dream ——— a - way;  
lead them, and ——— bring them ——— safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904) Copyright ©1938, Henry Hugh Bancroft. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**At the Presentation**

*Celebrant* All things come of Thee, O God.  
*All* **And of Thine Own have we given Thee.**

**The Great Thanksgiving** (Eucharistic Prayer C)

BCP 369

*The people remain standing.*

*The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
*All* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.  
*All* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.  
*All* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.  
*All* **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus** **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.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it;  
and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup  
and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

*Celebrant* On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All* **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant* Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*All* **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

### The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

*All* **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.**

### Fraction Anthem

*All* **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*Celebrant* 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.

*(continued on next page)*

1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in

hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -

sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
 self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright ©1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: *St. Mark's Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*, harm. Norman Mealy (b. 1923) Copyright ©1971, Norman Mealy. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Post Communion 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 your Son, and  
 heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
 And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
 to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
 To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lay Eucharistic Visitor Instruction

(if needed; see below)

Benediction

(continued on next page)

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:  
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;  
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;  
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900) Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

## Dismissal

BCP 365

*There is no closing Voluntary during the season of Advent. Advent is a preparatory season for Christmas; a voluntary ends a service. This Advent service does not truly end until Christmas Eve.*

## LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR INSTRUCTION

*Presider/* In the name of this congregation I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that  
*Deacon* that those to whom you may share with us in the communion of Christ's  
 Body and Blood.

*All* **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

## THE HEALING LITURGY

*Anyone desiring to be anointed (for yourself or on behalf of another)  
please go to the chapel and wait in prayerful silence until the priest arrives to conduct the liturgy.*

V: Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.  
R: **Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

*At the invitation of the priest, each individual will step forward, whisper their request, and be anointed.  
In respect for the sacredness of the rite, all others will please maintain prayerful silence  
and an appropriate distance to allow privacy while the rite is administered.  
Each person please depart in silence after being anointed.*

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## DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY

Week of 2 Advent, Year Two – BCP 937

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# PRAYER

*changes things*

**Intercessions for the Church:** St. Paul's Church, Newport - The Rev. S. Matthew Young, *Rector*; The Rev. Dcn. Tom Runge.

**Recently in need of prayers:** Anissa, Linda, Mildred.

**Continuing concern:** Angie, Barbara, Beverly, Bill, Dan, David, Debbie, Deborah, Donnie, Ellie, Faye, Florence, Jan & Dale,

Jesse, Jinks, John, Josh, Julia, Kathy, Lynda, Mac, Maja, Marilyn, Mark & Norma, Melissa, Mike & Susie, Nancy, Patricia, Polly, Shannon, and Tandy. We also pray for those affected by the COVID pandemic, and for those on active duty in the military: Daniel, Houston, Nick, and Tanner.

**Thanksgivings:** For the life and witness of Melissa Benton.

**Birthdays:** 12/5 – Eric Oelgoetz; 12/9 – Ava Marie Allison, Jessee Neat, Sally Prince; 12/11 – Matt Miller.

**Recently Deceased:** Melissa Benton.

### NOTICE:

*Part of the strength of this congregation is our care and concern for each other. Please help us to do this by letting us know when you are ill, hospitalized, or otherwise in need of prayer and/or visitation. We especially want to serve you during these times. Also, if we don't have your birthday or anniversary on file, or if it appears incorrectly, please let us know!*

**Please put ALL prayer requests in writing** to Deacon Sue Kurtz (email [deacon@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:deacon@ascensionfrankfort.org) or text 502-330-5358). Prayer requests must be received by end-of-day on **Sunday** to ensure publication in the next upcoming weekly newsletter and Sunday bulletin. 'Recently in Need' prayers will remain for ONE month only, unless requested again.



We regret to share news of the death of Melissa Benton on Thursday, November 26. A burial service is planned at Ascension on Saturday, December 11, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception following in the parish hall. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

# ADVENT



The use of a wreath and candles during Advent is a longstanding tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ... The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." ...

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas.

<https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/#.Xd7HI-bKbPY>

# Vestry

## »»»»»»»»»» NOMINATIONS ««««««««««

It is time to start thinking about the next members of Ascension's **Vestry**, who will begin their three-year tenure in January. This process starts with our Nominating Committee, which is responsible for recruiting candidates and publicizing the choices. By tradition this committee is made up of the four Vestry members who will rotate off in January (Tim Agne, Thomas Bemiss, Todd Elliott, and Zachary Horn), led by the Senior Warden (Julia Tyson). We are starting to recruit Vestry candidates now for election at the parish annual meeting in January 2022. If you have questions or are interested in serving on Vestry, please contact Julia Tyson ([jspeavler@gmail.com](mailto:jspeavler@gmail.com)) or any of those named above.



**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

## **ANNUAL PARISH BUSINESS MEETING**

**Please plan to attend.**

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### **Check out our ONLINE CALENDAR**

**for all events, services and activities**

**at [www.ascensionfrankfort.org/calendar](http://www.ascensionfrankfort.org/calendar)**

See all activities that are scheduled on church property and on social media. View the calendar as monthly, weekly, or an agenda list, with custom printing options. Keep an eye on what's coming up at Ascension! (During COVID, in-person activities may be limited and must be pre-approved.) Contact the church office for details (phone 502-223-0557 or email [info@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:info@ascensionfrankfort.org)).

**Bible Study** classes meet on Sundays at 11:00 a.m., in person AND via ZOOM.

**Book Study** classes will resume on December 1, meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM only. We will be reading **Living with Hope: A Scientist Looks at Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany**, by John Polkinghorne.

Contact Father Peter for ZOOM links.

# *Ascension's Angel Tree*



## *Christmas 2021 for the Children of Simon House*

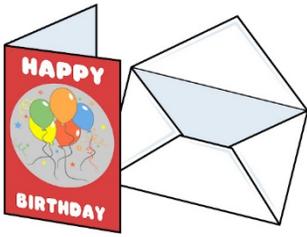
This year, Ascension will again sponsor Christmas treats and festivities for the resident children of Simon House with Angel Tree gifts and a holiday dinner. We will set up a tree in the back of the church (near the baptismal font) with paper angels to guide your shopping. COVID allowing, we will also organize an in-person group Christmas dinner party for the Simon House families – watch our newsletter and bulletins for details. Especially in this season of extra anxiety, we still want to help make the holidays a little brighter for these families. Many of you have responded very generously to this project in the past. We still offer a way for you to participate:

**MAKE A CASH CONTRIBUTION to this Angel Project.** Deacon Rebecca and Simon House administrators will also purchase modest gifts and make arrangements for the holiday party. 100% of your contribution will go directly to Simon House children and to the holiday dinner, with any remainder donated directly to Simon House for pressing needs. To help support Ascension's Angel Project for Simon House, please **make your check payable to *Church of the Ascension*, write "Simon House" or "Angel" in the memo area**, and mail it to Ascension at 311 Washington Street, Frankfort KY 40601 (or drop it in the offering plate).

**Your Angel Tree gift or monetary contribution must be received no later than Thursday, December 9, to allow time for shopping and delivery of items.**

**Contact Deacon Rebecca Saager personally for details.  
(Call 502-316-8899 or email [curate@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:curate@ascensionfrankfort.org))**

*Thank you, one and all!*



**NEW**  
**BIRTHDAY MINISTRY NEEDS HELP**

Do you enjoy receiving a birthday card from your Ascension family? For some people, it might be the only birthday card they receive, and we hope it helps everyone feel they are still connected to and remembered by the folks at church.

Do you ever wonder who sends those cards? We think this custom was started by the "Monday group" - lately it has been carried out by a single lay person who felt called to it as a ministry. That person now cannot continue.

What about you? Could you address, sign, stuff, seal and stamp about 200 cards per year? Maybe you could meet with a friend once a month and prepare a batch of cards for upcoming birthdays while you chat? All supplies will be provided by the parish office. YOU can help our church family keep in touch!

If interested, please contact Deacon Rebecca Saager ([curate@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:curate@ascensionfrankfort.org)).

**During the month of November and through December 12, the Daughters of the King are collecting:**

socks, underwear, gloves, hats, diapers and other infant supplies, men's and women's toiletries

for donation to the Simon House Men's and Women's Shelter (*new – ask John Martin for details!*). Collection bins will be provided at the church. For questions, contact Judith Spencer ([jspencer254@yahoo.com](mailto:jspencer254@yahoo.com)) or Deacon Rebecca Saager ([curate@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:curate@ascensionfrankfort.org)).



**FOOD DRIVE**  
for the  
**The Emergency Community Food Pantry of Franklin County**

**PLEASE BRING FOOD ITEMS TO ASCENSION BETWEEN DEC 24 and JAN 2 FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY**



**AND / OR:** The Emergency Community Food Pantry of Franklin County is conducting a Virtual Food Drive: Instead of giving nonperishable items, they are asking for your financial contribution (which is also nonperishable!). They will use your donation to purchase the food needed to fill food requests. They purchase in bulk, therefore receive a better price per item.

Check out online giving here - <http://www.frankfortfoodpantry.org/HowYouCanHelp>

or make out a check to the **Emergency Community Food Pantry** and mail it directly to PO Box 48, Frankfort, KY 40602.



## *2021 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form*

It's time to purchase poinsettias to decorate the church for this year's Christmas celebration at Church of the Ascension. The suggested donation per plant is \$13.00. A list of acknowledgements will appear in Christmas service bulletins. Please claim your flower(s) after the Christmas Lessons & Carols service on December 26.

Please indicate on each form the TYPE of recognition you would like to make; indicating "in honor," "in thanksgiving," or "in memory." For a different type of remembrance, please use a different form.

Put completed forms in the collection plate, or return them to the church office, no later than Monday, **December 20**.

Use only **ONE FORM PER PLANT**. Extra forms are available on church tables. OR you may email details to Mona in the parish office: [info@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:info@ascensionfrankfort.org)

**PLEASE PRINT** to ensure accuracy.

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose ONE TYPE of recognition for this flower (circle only one):**

**(In honor of)**

**(In memory of)**

**(In thanksgiving for)**

NAME(S) of those being honored/remembered (any number):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your gift for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.*



# Church of the Ascension

311 Washington Street, Frankfort KY 502-223-0557

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2021

## Advent & Christmas

This year our in-person, inside-the-church services are back after being long-curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we return to physically attending services inside the church, no advance registration is needed. But please remember that the pandemic is **ongoing**. **Not everyone has been vaccinated; some people are at high risk, and** breakthrough infections can occur. Signing in at the door, temperature checks, wearing a mask, and social distancing are still asked of everyone. Please check in personally with an usher when you arrive before taking a seat in the marked areas. Children are welcome in all services.

Watch for our latest updates on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ascensionfrankfort> and on our web site at <http://www.ascensionfrankfort.org> Also on Facebook: check out our priest, deacons and others providing live-streaming Evening Prayer (6:30 p.m. daily) and Compline (8:00 p.m. MWF). All schedules are subject to change.

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### *First Sunday of Advent*

Sunday, November 28

Holy Eucharist in person and Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

Sunday, December 5

Holy Eucharist in person and Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

### *Third Sunday of Advent: Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 12

Holy Eucharist in person and Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Sunday, December 19

Holy Eucharist in person and Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

### *Christmas Eve*

Friday, December 24

Holy Eucharist in person: music begins at 10:00 p.m., service starts at 10:30 p.m.

### *Christmas Day*

Saturday, December 25

Holy Eucharist in person at 10:00 a.m.

### *Christmas Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 26

Holy Eucharist in person and Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9:30 a.m.

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*The parish office will be closed from December 27-31. If you have a pastoral emergency over the holidays, please leave a message on the office phone at 502-223-0557 for a prompt response.*

# Lay Ministry

## ASCENSION MINISTRIES SCHEDULE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

	USHERS	READERS	CRUCIFER	SECURITY LOCKUP
<b>DEC 5</b> Team 2	Laura & Kristi Buffenmyer	Laura Buffenmyer	Ron Gruzesky Julia Tyson	Kristi Buffenmyer
<b>DEC 12</b> Team 3	Fred & Frances Kirchhoff	Frances Kirchhoff	Shannon Lancaster	Fred Kirchhoff
<b>DEC 19</b> Team 4	Jim King Ginni Fox & Will McKee	Karen Hoover	Bryan Hendricks	Cynthia Campbell
<b>DEC 26</b> Team 5	Scott & Michal Mello	Michal Mello	Ron Gruzesky	Thomas Bemiss
<b>Jan 2</b> Team 6	Shannon Lancaster & Judith Spencer	Pauline Van Horn	Julia Tyson	Julia Tyson
<b>Jan 9</b> Team 7	Karen Hoover & Kathy Kimbel	Ginni Fox	Shannon Lancaster	Judith Spencer
<b>JAN 16</b> Team 8	Bryan Hendricks & Jim King	Jennifer Lee	Bryan Hendricks	Tim Agne
<b>Jan 23</b> Team 1 ANNUAL MEETING (new vestry members elected)	Jim King & Rick Kurtz	Ron Gruzesky	Ron Gruzesky	Jim King

To notify of absence and request a substitute for the upcoming Sunday, please contact the Verger,  
Leah MacSwords, 502-545-0437 or [lmacs@aol.com](mailto:lmacs@aol.com)  
(substitutes include Suzanne Cox, Bryan Hendricks, Shannon Lancaster, Julia Tyson)

To inquire about serving as a lector, crucifer, chalice bearer, or usher, and  
to make specific requests for future scheduling, please contact  
Deacon Rebecca Saager, 502-316-8899 or [curate@ascensionfrankfort.org](mailto:curate@ascensionfrankfort.org)

Eight MINISTRY TEAMS will rotate in order, weekly, as shown above.  
Individual and late changes may not be included here due to composing and publishing deadlines.

*thank you*