

First Sunday of Advent

Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension

November 29, 2026 | 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

Thank you for worshiping with us today! The mission of the Church of the Ascension is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, and we joyfully welcome all people into our life and fellowship. We strive to be a radically-inclusive community with diverse and vibrant worship, intentionally-focused on children and youth, caring for each other, and on being the hands and feet of Christ in all that we do.

To help us welcome you, please take a moment to complete a connect card, located in your pew, then place it in the collection plate. Virtual cards are also available on the website.

	Ushers can guide you to the most convenient restroom. A unisex restroom is available in the Narthex (foyer).
	Ask an usher about accessing the hearing loop or put your hearing device on telecoil.
	Our professionally staffed nursery is open. An usher can help direct you.
	Help us get to know you. Visit the welcome desk for a nametag.
	Help us remain a place where everyone feels seen, valued, and uplifted. We encourage you to greet and welcome those in front of you, behind you, and in your pew.

Cover image: *The Annunciation*, stained glass by Brother Éric de Saussure, Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Church, Taizé, France. © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France. Used with permission.

The Holy Eucharist

Opening Voluntary *Prelude on "Lo! He comes with clouds descending"* Robert Powell
10:30 only

Welcome

Please stand, as you are able, as the procession enters the nave.
Processional Hymn *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* The Hymnal 57
10:30 only

Opening Acclamation

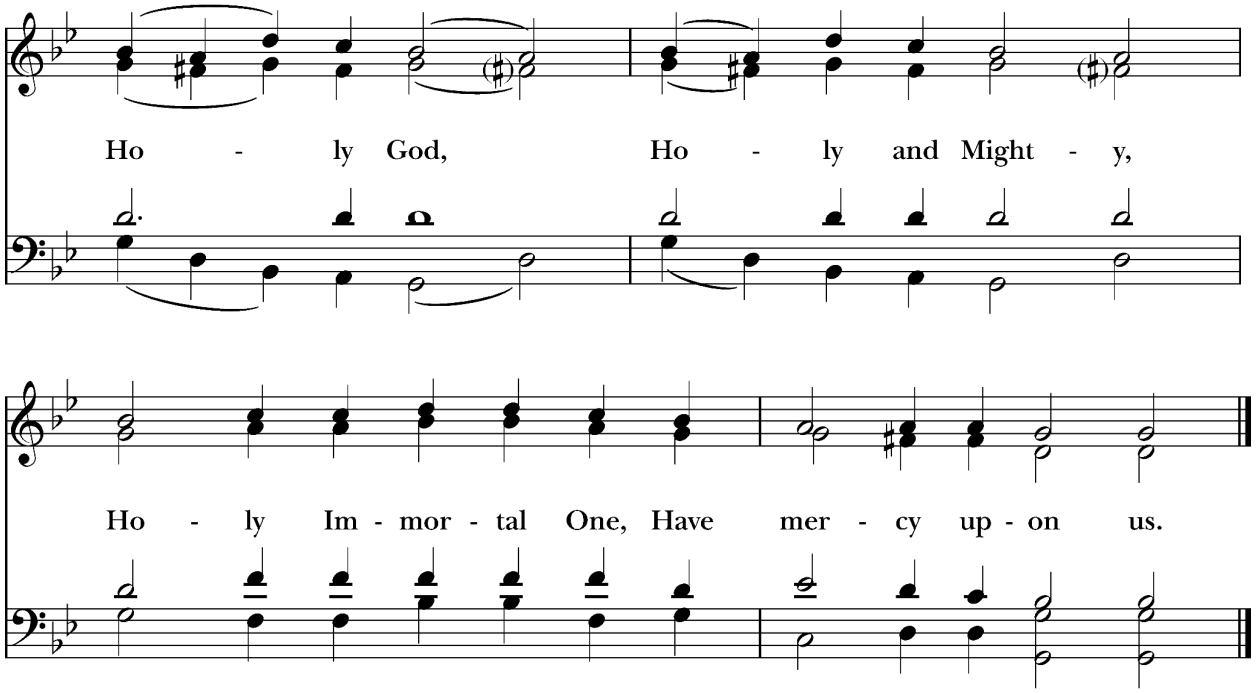
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Song of Praise *Trisagion* The Hymnal S102

Spoken (repeated three times) at 8:00; sung at 10:30



Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson

I Corinthians 1:3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

Sequence Hymn

Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us

The Hymnal 62

10:30 only

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

'the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.'

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley

Please stand, as you are able.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

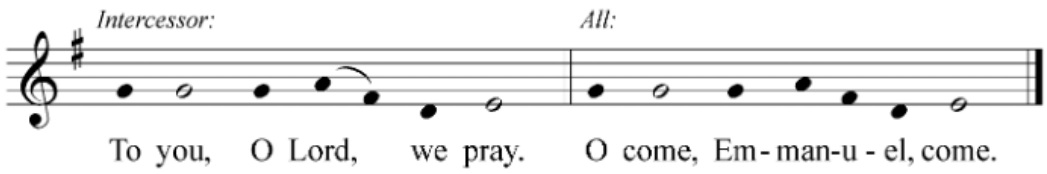
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

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.

Prayers of the People

The intercessor leads the prayer, and each petition concludes:



In the petition calling us to name those for whom we pray, the People may speak or sing names.

The Presider prays the following concluding collect.

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may go out joyfully to greet him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please kneel, as you are able.

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Most merciful God,

All **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.

Presider 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 Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Please remain standing after the Peace until the Bread and Wine have been placed on the altar, after which time you may be seated.

The Offertory

You may scan this code to make a one-time offering:

Celebrant Keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come ... in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else our Lord may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Anthem

Carol of the Advent — Philip Dietterich

10:30 only

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Please stand, as you are able, as the offering is brought forward to the Altar, then remain standing.

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

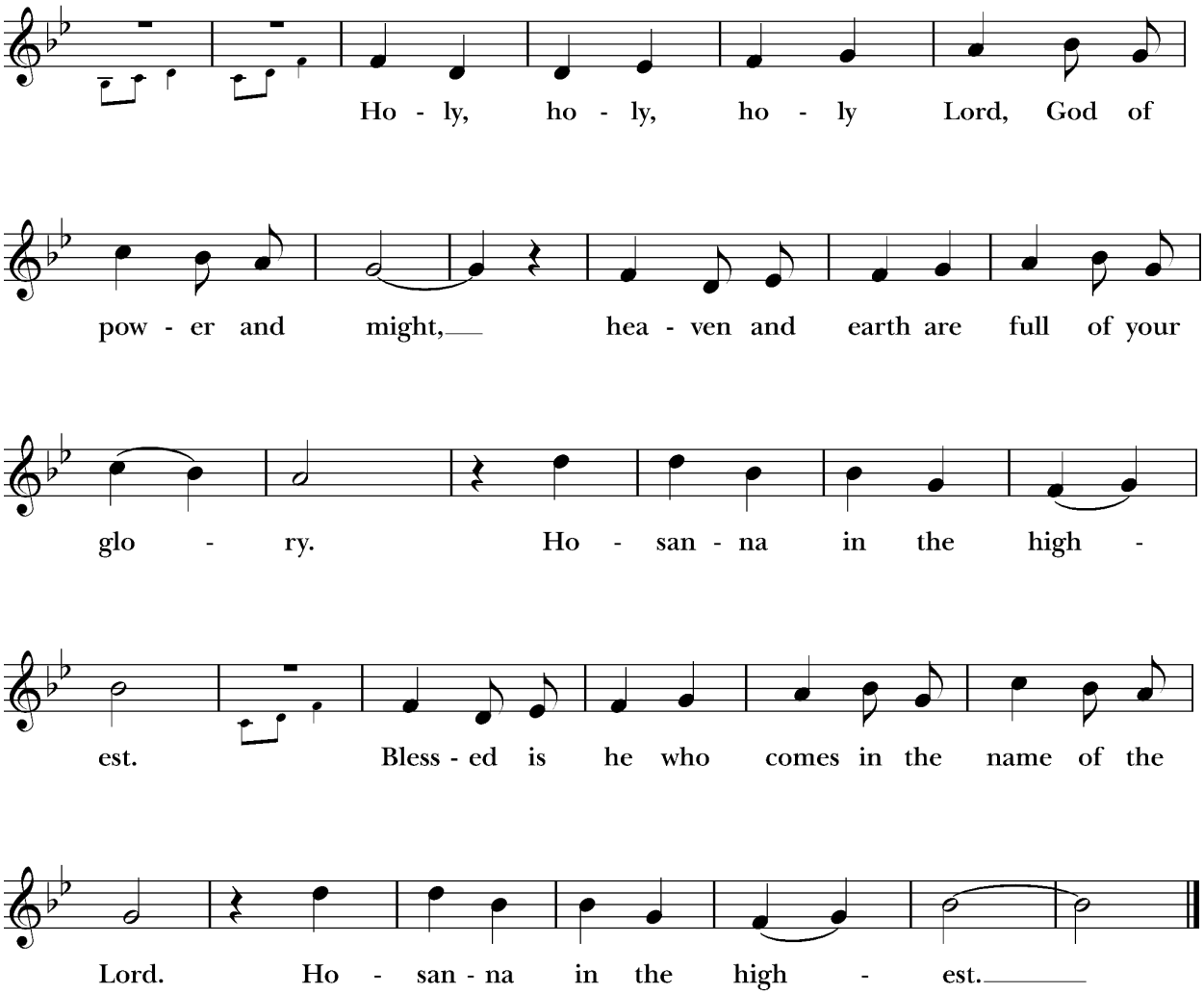
The Great Thanksgiving **Prayer B**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 The Hymnal S127

Spoken at 8:00; sung at 10:30



Music: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

The presider continues the prayer through the following words:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues the prayer and concludes

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

After the Bread is broken, silence is kept.

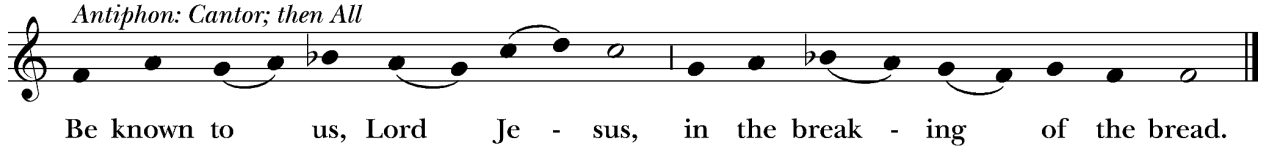
Spoken at 8:00

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Sung at 10:30 The Hymnal S 171

Please sing this refrain following the choir's intonation and after the verse.



Music: Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

Communion of the People

Please follow the instructions of the ushers. All who are baptized by water and in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, regardless of denomination, are invited to receive Communion. Those who are not baptized, or who choose not to receive for any reason, are invited forward to the altar rail to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. To indicate your desire to receive a gluten-free host, hold out your hands together, palms down. There is something for everyone at God's table today.

Communion Voluntary *O come, O come Emmanuel* Gerald Near

10:30 only

Please stand or kneel, as you are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
Eternal God,

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please stand.

On Sundays when we send visitors to the homebound or ill, the service continues:

Sending Forth of the Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go 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, one cup.**

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, Make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn *The King shall come when morning dawns* The Hymnal 73
10:30 only

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary *Sleepers, wake!* Paul Manz
10:30 only

Advent

Advent is a season of hopeful and humble anticipation. In it the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (Latin: *adventus*) of Christ in Bethlehem long ago, and anticipates his final coming at the end of time. In contrast with the worldly rush to Christmas, Advent summons us to watch and wait, to slow down and reflect. It invites us to admit our yearning for Christ's return when he will bring all things to their fulfillment and make all things new. In this season, we echo the Aramaic word that was commonly prayed by the early Church: Maranatha! Come swiftly, Lord.

Our Prayer List

Our Members: Katie; Brent; Joan & Dan; Patrick; Helen; Craig & Kay; Joe & Betty; Jim & Gayle; Phil; Brad & Janie; Pat; Daniel; Alice.

Our Friends & Family , Robert; Carolyn; Jody; Cooper; Betty; The Felicito family; Tracey; Steve; Katara; Mary; Blake; Evyonne; Brandon & Becky; Monique; Mac; Kirk; Ron; Susan; Marcy; Cheryl; Michelle; Carrie; Kenn; Karen; Lani; Gary; Greg; Colleen; Krystal & Newman; Eric; Judy & Alfred; Nancy; Spence; Linda & Emma; Sadie; Zylynda; Jacqueline; George; George & Sue; Titus; Richard; Alexis; Taylon; Gould Family; Jamie; Trish; Paulette; Eva; Lupita & family; Charles & John.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the world, especially Juan, Jose, Pedro, Ayoub, Nakisa, Afsaneh, Evaristo, Mo, Barbod, Milad, Sahel, Farshid, Amir, Blas Bautista, and their families; for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Iran, and Gaza and those who seek help from war; and for those who face threats of violence. For all schools, students, and teachers, especially for the mission and ministry of historically-Black

colleges and universities throughout our nation.

Upcoming Events & Notices

ALL PARISH READING OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK
Saturday, December 5 | 9:30 a.m. in Ascension's Nave

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to read! We're well on our way, but we still need readers for **chapters 10–12**. Sign up to read a chapter by scanning the QR code above and help us tell the whole story aloud together.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR SANDBRANCH COMMUNITY
Due before December 5

For the third Christmas in a row, Ascension will give 50 Sandbranch residents a $50 Walmart gift card at our December 5 water delivery. The cards let our neighbors buy something for the holidays that they can't get from their food pantry. Please help us raise $2,500 by December 5. You can give by cash, check, or online by scanning the QR code. Please mark your gift "Sandbranch," or choose "Water Ministry" from the dropdown.

WATER FOR SANDBRANCH
Next Delivery: Saturday, Dec. 5

Over the last three years, Ascension has delivered nearly 3,000 cases of water to Sandbranch, an unincorporated community 20 miles southeast of downtown Dallas that has no running water. We need volunteers to help buy cases of water, load the trucks, and deliver and unload the water in Sandbranch. If you'd like to help, please contact Jane Taber at Janectaber@gmail.com. You can also drop off cases of water by the Sandbranch poster in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS
Sunday, December 6 | 5:00 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

Join the choirs and families of Ascension, Transfiguration, and St. Thomas the Apostle for carols, anthems, and lessons, followed by a reception with homemade cookies.

ADOPT AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS

Ascension's Angel Tree is up and each tag on it carries the name of a neighbor who could use some extra love this Christmas. Some of our angels are children and families in Sandbranch. Others are seniors living in a Medicaid nursing home. To adopt an angel, choose a tag from the tree in the Narthex, shop for the gifts listed, and bring them back with the tag attached. It's a simple way to share the joy of the season!

CHILDREN VISITING FOR CHRISTMAS? JOIN THE NATIVITY PAGEANT!

Will grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or other young family members be in town for Christmas? They are warmly invited to join our Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant. No memorization or rehearsal is needed, and we provide costumes. Email Alice Frederick (alice.frederick@ascensiondallas.org) with each child's name, age, and clothing size and we will have everything ready when they arrive.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley
Rector
rebecca.tankersley@ascensiondallas.org

Glenn Stroh
Organist and Choirmaster
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Alice Frederick
Director of Christian Formation
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The Vestry
Audry Lee, Senior Warden
1222aalee@gmail.com

Kathleen Rylander, Junior Warden
Jane Taber, Clerk of the Vestry
Aaron Husman, Treasurer
Ginger Greenberg
Diane Haack
Michelle Heron
Bob Iden
Herb Kadane
Anne Burgdorf Moisuk
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