



The SPIRE 2021

The Newsletter of the
Episcopal Church of the Ascension,
Sierra Madre, California



Upcoming Events

Please see the calendar on page 4 for an updated list of 'outdoor' and 'virtual' events.

MAY 23



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Don't forget to wear **RED!**

Ascension's Leadership Team is On the Job

While Fr. Michael continues to convalesce and recover, Ascension's leadership team is meeting weekly to address the needs of our community and move the church forward. Deacon Ed, Pastor Josh, Jean Rowe, Kim Lumino, and Gordon Tomaske are working on plans to get us back into the sanctuary and ensure that Ascension continues to run as the well oiled machine Fr. Michael taught us to serve. Rest assured, Fr. Michael is kept up to date on the latest goings on and provides his input.

We also want to give thanks to Raymond Smith, our Jr. Warden, who has been working overtime on all manner of projects designed to maintain our beloved church building and grounds.

The leadership also values your input; so if you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas, please let us know. In the mean time, keep us in your prayers, know that we are praying for you, and let's all continue to pray for a speedy recover for Fr. Michael!

Blessings,
Gordon Tomaske
Sr. Warden

PLEASE NOTE

The Annual Parish Meeting originally scheduled for April 25th **has been rescheduled** for Sunday, June 27th, 2021.

Update of Father Michael

Fr. Michael had another surgery on Thursday, April 29 to address further infection in the chest. The surgery was successful. He is expected to be in the hospital for another few days. Please continue to pray for him and his family. The family would also like to thank all those who sent cards and/or flowers.

Worship Schedule and Important Information

As we continue to develop a transparent and seamless plan to resume indoor worship on a permanent basis, we will continue to worship outdoors at 8 AM and 10:15 AM. Both services will be broadcast via Facebook Live. Please remember to bring your own chair. For your continued safety, be assured that all covid protocols will be strictly observed including social distancing and wearing masks.

Direct all pastoral concerns and needs to the parish office. Contact Deacon Ed for any pastoral emergency.

APRIL 2020 (through April 19) Pledge Payment Snapshot



YTD Budget:	\$73,667
YTD Actual:	\$82,450
Difference:	\$8,783

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Music at our 10:15 services throughout the month of May will continue to include piano preludes and postludes, choral anthems, and closing hymns. The choir's presentations are as follows:

May 2, Easter 5

Offertory anthem: the beloved *Ave Verum Corpus* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Closing hymn: #610, BLAENHAFREN, *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

May 9, Easter 6

Offertory anthem: *The Gift of Love* by Hal Hopson
Closing hymn: #577, UBI CARITAS (MURRAY), *God Is Love, and Where True Love Is*

May 16, Sunday after The Ascension

Offertory anthem: *King of all Ages, Throned on High* by Paul Isom
Closing hymn: #218, DEO GRACIAS, *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

May 23, The Day of Pentecost

Offertory Anthem: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* by Harold Friedell
Closing Hymn: #515, O HEILIGER GEIST, *O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God*

My deep appreciation to our wonderful choristers for contributing their talents to our worship services throughout Eastertide and beyond: Susan Beach, Colette Ostrye, Carol Rasmussen, Liz Levie, Lavette Teague, Ted Boswell, and Charley Noecker. Beginning May 30 our singers will enjoy a summer hiatus. This past year has been like none other; we've been fortunate to enjoy resumption of music in the services, although limited, and we look forward to more complete musical services, hopefully this fall.

*Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise with him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust his life may make thee gold, and much more, just.
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art
The cross taught all wood to resound his name who bore the same
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key is best to celebrate this most high day
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long:
Or since all music is but three parts vied and multiplied:
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part and make up our defects with his sweet art.*
~ George Herbert



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

NEW and IMPROVED flower and candle sign-ups for 2021!!!!!!!

Beginning January 2021, sign-ups for Flower Donations and sign-ups for the Sanctuary Candle will be available on Sign-Up Genius (online) as well as in person in the hallway going into HAWKS HALL.

****Payment will continue to be made by mailing a CHECK (\$40.00 (flowers) and \$15.00 (Sanctuary candle) -- **now payable to Church of the Ascension.** **** Please include a note giving the date that you signed up for and any dedication.

We are looking forward to being able to offer this new way to sign up for flowers and candles and hope it will make donations more convenient for you.

In Christ,
St. Anne's Altar Guild

Here are the sign-up genius links:

Sanctuary Candles: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-sanctuary>

Altar Flowers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-altar>





Slowly, but surely, the Great Pandemic is beginning to appear in our rear-view mirrors. There will certainly be much to remember and much worth forgetting. Recently, I was asked a very intriguing and some might even say provocative question. But we will get to the question a little later.

One of the many things I most certainly will forget is the much overused and misleading phrase “new normal.” On the surface, it implies that everything new will be normal and everything normal will be new. What we have learned about ourselves, families, neighbors, country, and the world while living in the small, quarantined corners of our lives, which at times were ridiculously tiny and confining, should teach us that some of what we considered normal really wasn’t and should be left behind in the rear-view mirrors of our lives.

In many other ways, new, exciting, and challenging opportunities for lasting change that will uplift the human condition will present themselves. We must have the courage and willingness to embrace them! Some of it will look the same and some of it different. It’s all a matter of perspective. Eckert Tolle reminds us: “that life is the dancer and that we are the dance.”

We have a choice in all of this, don’t we? We can leave some things behind intentionally while we make choices as to what we take along. Of course, don’t forget the unexpected. After all, the unexpected is what got us here in the first place. “Be comfortable without knowing.” (Tolle)

So, here’s the question I was asked: “What’s the one thing you cannot live without?” In many ways I wish I didn’t have to grapple with the answer. It’s not as easy as I might have imagined, and the process of elimination is endless. It almost seems that my life depends on it.

As I get closer to the answer, I know in my heart and soul that God most certainly is involved.

I leave you with this: “What’s the one thing you cannot live without?”

Be well, be blessed, be cautiously insightful.

Deacon Ed+

CLOTHING DRIVE *for* The Women’s Room at Friends-In-Deed

Sponsored by The Episcopal CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Your Village Church Since 1885



New or Gently
Used Items *Please*

**men’s, women’s, and
children’s clothes*

*accepted**

May 1
through
May 15

Drop-Off Location

Church of the Ascension
25 E Laurel Ave.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Clothing bins are
located under the lych
gate to the north side of
the Church on Baldwin
Ave. →



Our vision is that *The Episcopal Church of the Ascension* serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.

WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE
 25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 www.ascension-sierramadre.com

MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 11:00AM Memorial Service for Frank Spencer Private
2 8am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	3	4 11am Leadership Team Meeting Chapel 11am Gooden Drama Hall	5 2pm Gooden Dance Hall	6 9am Rector's Form Zoom Call	7 1pm Gooden Dance Hall	8
9 8am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	10	11 11am Leadership Team Meeting Chapel 11am Gooden Drama Hall	12 2pm Gooden Dance Hall	13 9am Rector's Form Zoom Call	14 1pm Gooden Dance Hall	15 2:00PM Baptism Service for Caukin Family Private
16 8am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	17	18 11am Leadership Team Meeting Chapel 11am Gooden Drama Hall 7:30pm Vestry Meeting Zoom Call	19 2pm Gooden Dance Hall	20 9am Rector's Form Zoom Call	21 1pm Gooden Dance Hall	22
23 <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">PENTECOST SUNDAY</div> 8am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	24	25 11am Leadership Team Meeting Chapel 11am Gooden Drama Hall	26 2pm Gooden Dance Hall	27 9am Rector's Form Zoom Call	28 1pm Gooden Dance Hall	29
30 <div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">TRINITY SUNDAY</div> 8am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	31					