



### Mission

Ascension & Holy Trinity  
lives to put God's love into action!

### Worship Schedule

**8:00 am** | In-Church Sunday Service in the Nave  
[Safety Measures Apply]

**10:00 am** | Virtual Sunday Service on Facebook Live  
In-Church Sunday Service in the Nave  
[Safety Measures Apply]

### Connect with the Church

(513) 821 - 5341 | [office@ascensionholytrinity.com](mailto:office@ascensionholytrinity.com)

[Website](http://www.ascensionholytrinity.com): [www.ascensionholytrinity.com](http://www.ascensionholytrinity.com)

[Facebook](#): @ascensionholytrinityohio | [Instagram](#): @ascensionholytrinity

[Twitter](#): @AHTWyoming | [YouTube](#): Ascension Holy Trinity

[Youth Facebook](#): @AHTYouth | [Youth Instagram](#): @AHTYouth

[Youth Twitter](#): @AHTYouth

**A&HT Wyoming Preschool: 2 yrs. - Pre-K**

[wyoingpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:wyoingpreschool@gmail.com) | [Website](http://www.ahtpreschool.com): [www.ahtpreschool.com](http://www.ahtpreschool.com)

### The Vision of Ascension & Holy Trinity:

A vital and growing faith community with overflowing worship services and Christian growth opportunities. A church with compassion-centered ministries through which all find a place and take God's love into the world.

**All are welcome because all belong.**

## News from the Pews

### Birthdays

- 1 | Debbie Esposito
- 4 | Robin Hendley
- 5 | Harrison Belew,  
Christa Criddle
- 6 | Reid Remington
- 7 | Anne Brack,  
Julia Erickson
- 9 | Amy Getgey
- 10 | Dana Irvine,  
Nancy Ruchhoft
- 11 | Dorothy Poggiali
- 12 | Kelley Hancock,  
Bill Kent,  
Steven Roschke
- 13 | Robert Allan
- 15 | Emily Bence
- 16 | Ron Bence
- 17 | Kayle DeWitt,  
Sydney Oliver
- 19 | Rich Gómez
- 20 | Ross Gillingham
- 21 | Mary Criddle,  
Ariel Miller,  
Rolf Stottmann
- 22 | Andrew Gómez,  
Henry Moore
- 26 | Carolyn Finke

### Anniversaries

- 24 | Chris & Nikki DeWitt



### Prayer List

Bob & Wendy Allan, Nola Bode,  
Top Borden, Ruth Brewer, Ron  
Hannah, Angela Horne, Jane, Lisa  
Rego, Jon Toumey, Lindsay &  
Phil, Dave & Julie Zennie.

**All those with COVID-19 or  
loved ones with COVID-19.**



## Rector's Reflections

October has come and gone, and I am grateful for a full month of meaningful ministry with Ascension & Holy Trinity. November is one of my favorite months with All Saints' Day getting the month kicked off with both festivity and solemnity as we celebrate all the S/saints of God's holy family. We remember those who've gone before us, and we live into the gift of God's grace present to each of us, right here, right now.

Gratitude is the other reason I cherish November. Most of us celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends the fourth Thursday in November. The last Thanksgiving had been challenging as we made decisions about travel and physical safety and all of the Covid concerns. Today my heart overflows with deep gratitude that vaccinations have been created with research and boosters and widespread availability. I love my spouse and children, and I am ever so grateful that we can safely be present with our parents/grandparents, uncles, aunts, and niece this year. I'm not taking time with extended family for granted.

How do you practice gratitude? The writing of a daily gratitude list is one way to practice thanksgiving. Each morning I write three things for which I am grateful. This practice doesn't take long to accomplish, and it gets my morning off to a positive, healthy beginning. Throughout the day I give thanks to those I encounter, whether the thanksgiving is in my mind, a simple handwritten note, email, or face to face acknowledgment of the ways I appreciate them. Humanity is hungry to be acknowledged. Expressing gratitude and appreciation to others is a small way to make the world a healthier, happy atmosphere. Gratitude expressed doesn't need to cost a thing, either.

Another gratitude practice is through praying the Daily Office, Morning, and Evening Prayer together. As several of us pray Morning Prayer Monday through Friday at 9:00 am on our church Facebook page and Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, our prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving are welcomed, either aloud or silently. We offer these online prayers "aloud" by typing into the comments, then the officiant prays the prayer aloud for the group. Praying with folks online in this manner provides an easy way for me to picture our sisters and brothers in Christ and to offer thanksgiving for them.

Offering an intentional time before a meal, not just dinner, is a way to practice gratitude. Walking along the sidewalks and offering thanks for those passing by is another way to practice gratitude. Frustrated doing house chores or work tasks you don't enjoy? I try giving God thanks for the family who wears the

laundry I fold or for the ability to purchase the food we eat together as dishes are being cleaned. Reading or watching the news and getting antsy about the state of the world? Give thanks for the gift of a variety of news sources from which to choose.

I find that the more I practice cultivating an attitude of gratitude, the more for which I am grateful. I was particularly grateful during our Ingathering Sunday with the fellowship afterward. Several folks stayed with us after worship to experience fellowship around food and videos. I appreciate all of the folks who took the time to offer videos and the videographers and editors. I'm appreciative of our Vestry and their leadership, of our year-round stewardship team, of all those who lead our worship, of our formation leaders and participants, of our outreach leaders and ministries, of the gorgeous music led by our minister of music and our music ministries, our preschool, all of our extraordinary staff, for those who were able to pledge and for those unable to pledge. You see where I'm going here?

How will you cultivate an attitude of gratitude this November?

In God's Grace,



Eric L. Miller+  
Rector

## Senior Warden's Reflections

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Greetings and Peace to you.

Are you a Sunrise or a Sunset person? Or, maybe you are both? Are you "up and about" before the sun comes up (when it is not too cloudy and rainy to see it), and you greet the day with the brightness of the sun on the eastern horizon? Or are you someone who, in the minutes before the sun sets, remembers and reflects upon all you did, and/or didn't, do during the day now passing?

Sometimes Barbara greets the sunrise from our kitchen window, but all the time both of us "Chase the SUNSETS" from the top of the Tower in Summit Park in Blue Ash, from the hiking trails above Sabino Canyon in the foothills in

Tucson, and most recently from the beach at Hapuna Beach State Park on the west shore of the Island of Hawai'i. (Oh yes, we do try to capture some photo images of these Sunsets to help us remember).

Why Sunsets? In our Book of Common Prayer, Evening Prayer calls us to proclaim:

*O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever-loving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*

*Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,*

*O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.*

So, at Sunset we begin to bring an end to the day with these words of praise while we watch the clouds, sea, sky, and heaven reflect Our Creator's glory and love for us. And then, we look forward to tomorrow's Sunrise and another day to be Beloved by God, given His grace, mercy, and the Holy Spirit as our guide to help us "Bring God's love into the World."

OK, what's next? Go "Chase the Sunset" this evening and then get up for the Sunrise tomorrow.

Shalom, **Kim**



## Music Notes



### New Artist-in-Residence

**Please Welcome Mitchell Sturges!**

I'm thrilled to introduce you to tenor Mitchell Sturges, our new Artist-in-Residence at Ascension & Holy Trinity! You may recognize him from the time he spent singing with us in August. If you've never seen this kind of arrangement before, it essentially works as a mutually beneficial arrangement between an artist and a church or other organization. We'll be providing Mitchell with practice space and some assistance for concerts like program printing and light receptions. In return, Mitchell will provide us with 2 concerts, and he and I will work together to program 1-2 other concerts throughout the rest of the year. They will include newly composed pieces that he has commissioned. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to expand its musical offerings and reach the community in new ways. Mitchell and I are hard at work getting the planning done, and we hope to have more information about what the concert season will look like in the next month! In the meantime, check out Mitchell's bio to learn more about his background.

**Sara Cahall | Minister of Music**

## **Mitchell Sturges Bio**

Hailed with “honest” and “transparently clean” singing, tenor Mitchell Sturges, a Salt Lake City native, recently moved to Cincinnati from Tucson, where he was in his fourth year as an education outreach Teaching Artist for Arizona Opera in elementary and middle schools throughout southern Arizona. Before his time in Arizona, he lived in Vienna, Austria for 3 years, making his international operatic début singing the role of Don Basilio in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* in over 200 performances. While in Vienna, Mr. Sturges was a frequently sought-after concert performer, singing in celebrated and historic venues such as the Schönbrunn Orangerie, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, and Palais Eschenbach. An active chorister, he has held professional positions at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, First Presbyterian Church, and the Utah Symphony & Opera in Salt Lake City; Arizona Opera, St. Phillip’s-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church, First United Methodist Church, True Concord Voices & Orchestra, Tucson Symphony Orchestra in Arizona; and currently sings at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati.

The 2021-22 season finds Mitchell performing Haydn’s *Lord Nelson Mass* & Nunes Garcia’s *Laudate pueri Dominum* with *Musica Sacra*, Bach’s *Cantata 77* with the Bach Ensemble of St. Thomas, Händel’s *Messiah* with Collegium Cincinnati, and a choral concert with the Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble. He was recently named Artist-in-Residence for Ascension & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wyoming, OH. As part of this appointment, he will be presenting two recitals in 2022 & the world premieres of Clint Borzoni’s *Requiem Fragments* & *O You, Whom my Soul Loves*.

A consummate concert artist, he has been featured throughout Vienna and the American Southwest performing the works of J.S. Bach, Britten, Dvořák, Gounod, Händel, Mozart, Orff, and Schubert. Mr. Sturges has been presented in recital at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, England, Los Angeles City College, Assembly Hall on Temple Square in Salt Lake, and the Salt Lake City Library, giving “inspired performances” and leaving audiences “entertained and edified.” Past operatic performances include collaborations with *Oper in der Krypta* in Vienna, Arizona Opera, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Paradigm Chamber Orchestra, Salt Lake Symphony, and Expositions :: SLC Concert Series, for *La bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Consul*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and *West Side Story*. For more information, please visit [mitchellsturgestenor.com](http://mitchellsturgestenor.com).

## **Monday Matters**

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

-Matthew 5:10-12

William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury once said: “When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don’t, they don’t.” So here’s a holy coincidence. We come in our weekly series to this beatitude which speaks of those persecuted for righteousness’ sake. And it happens to fall on All Saints Day, one of the great feasts of the church. On All Saints Day, we celebrate a great cloud of witnesses, especially those who knew the greatest persecution, whose lives ended in martyrdom for the sake of the gospel.

On this day, we often sing a song of the saints of God. When I hear that hymn, I think of a presentation I heard from a nurse who had spent time serving in another country. At a time of civil unrest, a number of Christians were being treated in her hospital. Soldiers burst in and dragged these Christians from their beds, took them out and shot them. In the presentation I attended, the woman reflected on the phrase from that hymn: “One was slain by a fierce wild beast.” I had often thought of this as a quaint, sweet, perhaps irrelevant hymn about having tea with the queen or something. It took on new meaning as she spoke of how she encountered that wild beast in the form of those soldiers.

At a bible study I led years ago, we had a steady, faithful crowd. One of our members asked if he could bring a friend. I said sure. This quiet, slight guest sat silently through our hour-long discussion. The passage before us was about persecution that comes to disciples. We talked about how we as people of faith experienced persecution. Friends and family and co-workers making fun of us. A conflict between church and a sporting event. Towards the end of the study, the guest asked if he could speak. It turns out he was a clergyman from Africa. A gang, part of a movement opposed to the Christian faith, had kidnapped him, taken him out of the city, handed him a shovel to dig his own grave. At gunpoint, looking down at that hole in the ground, he was told to renounce his faith. He stood face to face with a wild beast. This tiny man refused. For whatever holy reason, the kidnappers put down their guns and let him go.

At another bible study, ten years ago, a young man sat as a guest with a group that met weekly. The gathering is described in a book I just finished, entitled “Grace Will Lead Us Home.” It’s about the massacre at the Charleston church, Mother Emmanuel. That wild beast of a young man radicalized by white supremacists took the lives of those saints. They were saints blessed by families who witnessed to God’s life and love through their forgiveness. Into that horrific situation, something of the blessedness of the kingdom of God surfaced.

So we hear of blessings for those persecuted for righteousness’ sake.

Sometimes religious people are persecuted but it's because they are being jerks in one way, being arrogant or close-minded, using the gospel to feed their ego. I believe Jesus is talking about something else, about taking a stand for God's ways in a world with devil's filled that threaten to undo us, to borrow language from Martin Luther's great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress."

As you think about this beatitude, have you ever experienced persecution for righteousness' sake? Is so, how so? If not, why not? Do you know people who have? Was it a blessing? A cause for rejoicing? Maybe we've escaped persecution because we keep our faith under wraps. A preacher in my youth once asked: "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict?" No need to go looking for trouble, but pray for those who face persecution right now. And if that's you, know that you are not alone in the struggle. And if it's not you, think about what you'd be willing to give up for sake of God's righteousness.

**Jay Sidebotham**

## A&HT Finance Office Announcements

### Reminders for everyone as we near the end of this year.

If you'd like to make a donation to the church for the 2021 tax year, the church must receive that donation on or before December 31, 2021.

We accept donations of cash or checks mailed to or dropped off at church. We recommend you do not mail cash, as it is easily stolen. If you'd like to donate cash, please call the church office to make arrangements. We also accept credit card payments via PayPal on our website and gifts of stock shares via our TD Ameritrade account. If you are planning to donate stock, please remember to complete the A&HT Stock Transfer Form, which is available on our website or via email from the finance office ([treasurer@ascensionholyltrinity.com](mailto:treasurer@ascensionholyltrinity.com)) or church office ([office@ascensionholyltrinity.com](mailto:office@ascensionholyltrinity.com)). The stock transfer form provides instructions for your broker and, by providing us with a copy of the form, notifies us of the stock transfer and how you'd like us to apply the sale proceeds. If you do not notify us of the stock transfer in advance, we will not know who the stock came from and you won't get credit, so please use the form! For those of you wanting to make an IRA qualified charitable distribution, please contact your financial adviser ASAP to get the process started, as it may take up to a month or longer before the church receives a check in the mail.

As always, thank you for your financial support of the church!

**Carol Gómez - Treasurer | Laura Bence - Finance Office Manager**



## 2021 Holiday Giving Tree

'Tis the season for the annual Holiday Giving Tree Program! As a parish, we have always helped Valley Interfaith with this major Christmas gift project that has done so much for families in need in our area. Changes made last year to ensure the safety of clients and volunteers will continue this year. Instead of providing donations of toys and clothing to clients, each family will receive a food basket and Target gift cards for each child. It may not be as much fun for us as shopping for special clothes and toys, but it is greatly appreciated!

### Food Donation

A&HT has agreed to provide 150 bags of wide egg noodles (16 oz) this year. Noodles can be dropped off at the church during business hours: Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM, or anytime the church is open. There will be a large box to collect the noodles in the narthex. If you would like to contribute but are unable to come to church, please call one of us to make other arrangements. Chuck Kellner has graciously volunteered to deliver donations to Valley Interfaith again this year.

### Gift Cards

Valley is also requesting \$25 Target gift cards. Our goal is 150 gift cards. You are welcome to mail them to A&HT, drop them in an envelope in the offering plate, or deliver them to the office (give the cards to the Parish Administrator or drop the envelope in the office mail slot).

### Valley would like to have all donations by Monday, December 6.

Each week you can watch our contributions grow on our Giving Tree in the narthex and our virtual Giving Tree pictured in the weekly newsletter. For every 15 gift cards we receive, one ornament will be added to our trees. For every 15 boxes of noodles, one present will be placed under the trees. Help decorate our Giving Trees and make Christmas a bit more special for our neighbors in need!

# A&HT Preschool

## Daily Schedule of the Cool Cats Class (3 & 4 Year Olds)

- 9:00 am Arrival & Free Play
- 9:30 am Large Muscle Activities Outside  
or in the Muscle Room
- 10:00 am Circle Time & Center Time
- 10:50 am Group Snack Time
- 11:15 am Art & Second Circle Time
- 11:45 am Large Muscle Activities Outside  
or in the Muscle Room
- 12:00 pm Dismissal



Ascension & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

