



Ascension Extension

APRIL 2026

www.ascension-westminster.com

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Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD

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Rector's Message: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Dear People of Ascension, near and far:

Easter changes everything.

We have walked the long road of Lent — through wilderness and shadow, through ashes and fasting, through the stark solemnity of Holy Week. And then, on the first day of the week, at the empty tomb, everything turns. The stone is rolled away. The grave is empty. The Lord is risen. And we proclaim: **Alleluia, Christ is risen!**

This is not simply a seasonal greeting. It is the heart of our faith, the ground on which we stand, the word that reshapes every other word we speak. The Resurrection is not one event among many in the life of Jesus — it is the event that gives all the others their meaning. Without Easter, there is no Gospel. With Easter, there is nothing but Good News. And this Good News is not meant to be kept — it is meant to be proclaimed.

And here is what is remarkable: we do not celebrate this truth once a year and move on. The Easter Season stretches fifty days — from the Resurrection to Pentecost — inviting us to dwell in the joy of what God has done, to let it saturate our lives, and to carry it outward into the world. We are Easter people. The Alleluia is our song — not just on Sunday mornings, but in our kitchens, our offices, our relationships, and in the places where we struggle.

(Continued on p. 2)

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

**The Church Office will be closed on
Good Friday, April 3.**

*Ascension is called to be a family of faith so reflecting the life of Christ,
that we draw all people to him.*

April Worship

April 2

Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

April 3

Good Friday

6:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy
Stone Church

April 5

Easter Day

Youth Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12),
Adult Bible Study
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12),
Adult Bible Study
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
Sunday School(Gr. K-5)
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12)
Adult Bible Study
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12)
Adult Bible Study
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
Sunday School(Gr. K-5)
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Rector's Message continued...

The Risen Lord met the disciples on the first day of the week. He appeared again a week later. And so it has been, week after week, ever since: the People of God gathering on the Lord's Day to encounter the Risen Christ. This is the origin of our Sunday Eucharist. Every Sunday is a little Easter. Every gathering at the Table is a resurrection celebration — and the invitation stands, not just when the calendar cooperates, but every single week, without exception.

The Church calls this the Paschal Mystery — the passage of Christ through death into life. And it is not only His story; it is ours. In Baptism, we were joined to Him — buried with Him, raised with Him. That is who we are. And this mystery is not only personal; it is cosmic. In raising Jesus from the dead, God declared that death does not have the final word — not for Him, and not for us, and not for the world He loves. Creation itself is being renewed. A new age has begun, and we live, already, in its light. Every time we gather at the Table, we stand at the intersection of this world and the next, proclaiming the death of the Lord, His resurrection, and His coming again.

Think of what happens when we come together. We bring our doubts, our sorrows, our fatigue, and our burdens. We confess our failures and hear the word of absolution. We listen as Scripture opens before us. We gather at the Table, give thanks, break the bread, and receive Christ — Body and Blood, bread of heaven and cup of salvation. We are fed, forgiven, freed, and sent — sent to proclaim.

This is why Sunday worship is not a slot to fill when nothing else demands our time. It is the rhythm of the Christian life — as steady and necessary as breathing. Not because we are under compulsion, but because we are loved, and because we need it. We are not strong enough, or wise enough, or resilient enough to navigate this world on our own. We need to be gathered. We need to be fed. And the Lord, knowing this, calls us back — every week, without fail — to the Table where He meets us.

When life is full, we need Sunday. When life is hard — when grief presses in, when anxiety rises, when we feel most scattered — we need Sunday even more. The Risen Lord meets us in our need, just as He met Mary weeping at the tomb, the disciples huddled in their locked room, and the two on the road to Emmaus, their hearts burning within them as He broke the bread. He has never stopped meeting His people this way. He meets us still, here, at this Table, on this day, and on the next, and on the one after that.

(Continued on p. 3)

This Easter season, we also invite you to share that joy. Speak of it to family and friends. Invite a neighbor to join you — whether in the quiet and contemplative service in the Stone Church at 8:00 a.m., or in the more festive gathering in Holy Cross Hall at 10:15 a.m. The Risen Lord is not a secret to be kept. He is Good News to be proclaimed. You need not have the perfect words. Simply offer an invitation: Come and see.

And when you come — this Sunday, and every Sunday — come knowing that something real happens here. The Eucharist is not a memorial of something past. It is an encounter with the Living One. He who was dead is alive. He who was absent is present. And as we receive Him, week by week, He continues to form us — quietly, surely — into the people He calls us to be.

May this Easter Season fill us with a joy that cannot be contained. May we answer the summons, Sunday after Sunday, and may our lives be our proclamation.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the joy of the Resurrection,

Pierre-Henry+



A Pastoral Invitation

Dear Siblings in Christ:

Holy Week is the heart of our Christian faith. In these sacred days, we do not simply remember what happened to Jesus long ago — we walk with him. We move from the waving of palms to the intimacy of the Upper Room, from the sorrow of the cross to the stillness of the tomb, and finally into the blazing joy of the Resurrection.

Whether you have observed Holy Week your whole life or are experiencing it for the first time, I invite you to come. Come to pray. Come to listen. Come to stand at the cross. Come to rejoice at the empty tomb.

These days can shape us deeply if we allow them.

In Christ's love,
Pierre-Henry+

 <p><i>Hosanna!</i> PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM</p>	<p>TAKE, EAT, REMEMBER</p>	<p>MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2 6:00 PM</p> 
<p>IT IS FINISHED.</p>	<p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>  <p>APRIL 3 6:00 PM</p>	<p>IN THE WAITING...</p>
<p>EASTER SUNDAY</p>  <p>APRIL 5 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM EASTER EGG HUNT AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE</p>	<p>HOLY WEEK 2026</p> <p>MARCH 29 - APRIL 5 Church of the Ascension 23 N. Court St. Westminster, MD ascension-westminster.com</p>	 <p><i>He is Risen!</i></p>

Holy Week and Easter: March 29 – April 5

Palm Sunday – March 29

8:00 am & 10:15 am

Holy Week begins with both joy and solemnity. We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when crowds waved palm branches and cried, "Hosanna!" Yet in the same service, we hear the Passion narrative.

Palm Sunday reminds us that Christian faith is not shallow enthusiasm. The One we welcome as King is the same One who will give his life in love for the world. Praise and sacrifice stand side by side.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Worship Services:
8:00 am – Stone Church
10:15 am – Holy Cross Hall

Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Church of the *Ascension*
Connect. Grow. Serve.



Maundy Thursday

April 2
6:00 pm
Holy Cross Hall

Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Maundy Thursday – April 3

Joint Service with Westminster United Methodist Church – 6:00 pm

On this holy night we gather in the Upper Room. We remember the Last Supper — when Jesus took bread and wine and gave himself to his disciples. On this night he gave us the Holy Eucharist and a new commandment.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment." It refers to Jesus' words:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

But Maundy Thursday is not only about memory. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we are not re-enacting a scene from the past. We are drawn into the same self-giving love of Christ that led him from the table to the cross — and through the cross to the Resurrection.

The Upper Room and Easter morning belong together. The broken bread of Thursday becomes the risen life of Sunday. At the altar, we receive not only the Body given and Blood poured out, but the living Christ who conquers death.

The service concludes in solemn silence as the altar is stripped, symbolizing Jesus' arrest and abandonment. We leave quietly, entering into the gravity of Good Friday.



Good Friday – April 3**Community Cross Walk – 11:00 am**

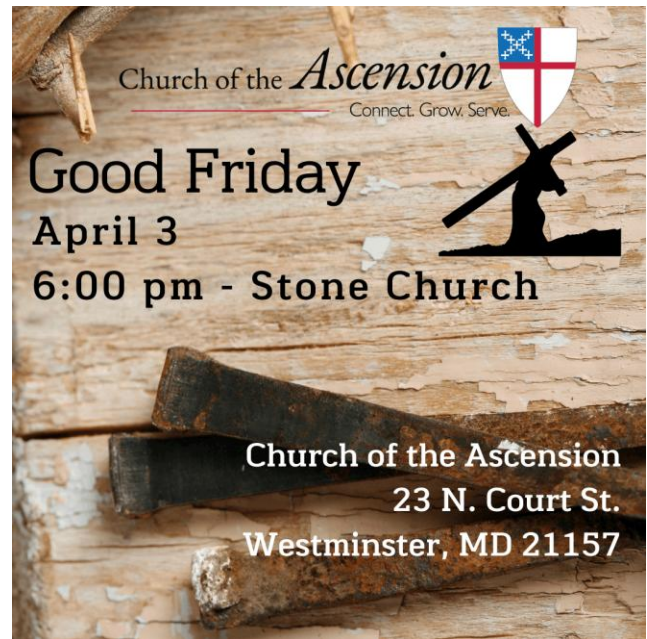
- Begins at Westminster United Methodist Church
- Ends at Westminster Church of the Brethren

The Community Cross Walk offers a visible witness of prayer within our town.

Good Friday Liturgy – 6:00 pm

Good Friday is the most solemn service of the year. We hear the Passion according to John and offer the ancient Solemn Collects — prayers for the Church and for the whole world.

We venerate the cross not because suffering is good, but because through the cross God reveals the depth of divine love. This is the day we stand at the foot of the cross and behold love poured out completely.





Easter Sunday

April 5
8:00 am
Stone Church

10:15 am
Holy Cross Hall

23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Church of the *Ascension*
Connect. Grow. Serve.

Easter Sunday - April 5**8:00 am & 10:15 am**

After the silence of the tomb comes the cry of the Church:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!

Easter is the joyful proclamation of Christ's Resurrection — the triumph of life over death and hope over fear.

Both services will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist filled with music, beauty, and gladness. Easter begins a season of fifty days of rejoicing.

**If you would like to donate candy for the
Easter Egg Hunt, please drop it off in the
church office by March 29.**

We kindly ask that you not share any candy
containing nuts.

A Final Word

Palm Sunday proclaims the whole story in a single sweeping liturgy — from triumphal entry to crucifixion. But in the Triduum, we slow down and dwell within the mystery. We sit at the table where love kneels to wash feet and gives itself in bread and wine. We stand beneath the cross where that love is poured out completely. We keep watch at the tomb, trusting that even in silence God is at work. And in the dawn light of Easter, we discover what has been true all along: love is stronger than death.

Come and walk these holy days together.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe: Support Holy Land ministries through Good Friday Offering



Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:

For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

I am in frequent touch with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who leads the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and I know how urgently he and his people need our support as they alleviate suffering and provide hope to God's people of all faiths. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey recently gave the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem \$1 million to support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian territories, and I am hoping that we can build on that extraordinary gift with this year's Good Friday Offering.

Your gift will support:

- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel-Hamas War amid bombardment, devastating shortages of food, water, and medicine, and extended power outages.
- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Episcopal Church supports just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land and around the world. While we pray and work for peace, our siblings in the Holy Land will continue to serve God's people with hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Together, we can support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as it turns despair into hope for God's people in the land.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

To make your gift today:

Online: iam.ec/goodfridayoffering

Send a check with "Good Friday Appeal" in the memo line to:

The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983



Worship Assistants: April 2026					
April Altar		Susan Considine, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe			
Guild: Team 5					
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
March 29 8:00 am Palm Sunday	Cheryl Vecera	1. Roberta Wilhelm 2. Dave Gosnell 3. Ashley Schwartz 4. Dominic Day	Beverly Baker		
March 29 10:15 am Palm Sunday	1. David Anderson 2. Ellen Anderson	1. Roberta Gore 2. Betsy Reinders 3. Chris Nusbaum 4. Olivia Carpenter	Kat Dittrich Beatrice Howe, Kaydence Harper	1. Sandy White 2. Kim Tompkins 3. Betsy Reinders 4. Susan Considine	Jeanne Cox
April 2 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday	1. 2.	Roberta Gore	Ellen Anderson	1. Helen Lang 2. Kim Tompkins 3. 4.	Jeanne Cox
April 3 6:00 pm Good Friday		1. Roberta Gore 2. Dave Gosnell 3. Chris Nusbaum 4. Buck Lyon-Vaiden 5. Olivia Carpenter			
April 5 8:00 am		Mary Lou Berg	Charlie Aler		
April 5 10:15 am	1. 2.	Betsy Reinders	Kat Dittrich	1. Sandy White 2. Betsy Reinders 3. 4.	Roberta Gore
April 12 8:00 am		David Kreider	Beverly Baker		
April 12 10:15 am	1. 2.		Kat Dittrich	1. Sandy White 2. 3. 4.	John Holbert
April 19 8:00 am		Mary Lou Berg	Beverly Baker		
April 19 10:15 am	1. 2.	Sophie Buisson		1. Sandy White 2. 3. 4.	Emelia Howe
April 26 8:00 am			Beverly Baker		
April 26 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. John Holbert 2. Jill Horn 3. Sandy White 4.	Karen Lance



Sunday, April 5 will be Youth Sunday during the 10:15 am service!

DATE	Sunday School (Gr. 6-12)	Sunday School (Gr. K-5)	Children's Chapel (all ages)
April 5 Youth Sunday	9:00 am		Children's Chapel 10:15 am
April 12	9:00 am	10:15 am	
April 19	9:00 am		Children's Chapel
April 26	9:00 am	10:15 am	



19th Annual
Peep Show
at the
TownMall of
Westminster
March 27 - April 6



Monday-Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

Please attend and buy votes for your favorite marshmallow masterpieces. You can view the entries for free and buy votes for your favorites, with **all proceeds benefiting the Carroll County Arts Council!**

The Foundations Sunday School class entered a sculpture titled **'You're Chosen.'**
Vote for *i*



Church Office Notes



Early Publication of Bulletins and Enews

During Holy Week, the Sunday, April 5 bulletins and the Enews will be completed on **Wednesday, April 1**. Thank you for submitting announcements to be included by **Tuesday, March 31**.



Fr. Pierre-Henry+ will be away from the office the week following Easter Sunday (April 5), returning on Tuesday, April 14. For any urgent pastoral needs during this time, please contact the Church Office.

May Newsletter



The Vestry

Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	
Bryan Lance, Jr. Warden	2029	
Susan Considine, Treasurer	2029	
Nancy Starner, Assistant Treasurer		
Lorraine Fulton, Registrar	2027	
David Anderson	2027	
Deborah Rio	2028	
Mark Howe	2028	
Melissa Leahy	2028	
Dave Gosnell	2029	

Vestry Meeting Highlights – March 24

Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry, David Anderson, Kim Tompkins, Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy, Deborah Rio, Susan Considine, Dave Gosnell, Bryan Lance.

Absent: Lorraine Fulton

The meeting began with a prayer and open discussion led by Fr. Pierre-Henry. The Vestry approved the Consent Agenda, including the Vestry Meeting Minutes from 2/24/2026, Vestry Resolutions 2026-YTD, Rector's Report, Senior Warden's Report, and a Vestry Liaison Report for Mistletoe Mart.

Fr. Pierre-Henry presented a Vestry Covenant developed from discussion topics during the 2/24/2026 Vestry meeting, which was approved by the Vestry.

Ascension Vestry members and lay leaders are invited to attend the College for Congregational Development (CCD) summer program scheduled for 6/14-6/19/2026 at the Claggett Center.

The Vestry continued discussions regarding Ascension responsibilities and ministries with limited volunteer resources using the congregation's input from the Adult Forums held 8/24/2025 and 10/26/2025 as well as the 11/25/2025 Vestry meeting with Canon Kristofer. Actions have begun with the Music Ministry, Fellowship Hour and the Children & Youth Summer Programs. The next discussions will include St. Martha's Guild and the St. James Commission.

The Vestry liaisons were reviewed and will be communicated by early April.

Bryan Lance provided Buildings and Grounds updates for the Holy Cross Hall ceiling tiles and the AED First Response Kit located outside the Fellowship Hall.

Susan Considine reviewed the Financial Reports for February, 2026. At the end of February, Operating Income was higher than budgeted and Operating Expenses were slightly lower than budgeted, resulting in a positive variance for the month.

Church Staff

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson	Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Adult Ensemble Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant

Bible Study



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We will meet on April 7 and April 21, 9:30 am, in Room #202.

For information, please contact Bill Sears.



Mistletoe Mart

mistletoemart.com

Thank you, again, for all of your ongoing support for the Mistletoe Mart! The committee is already busy planning for Mistletoe Mart #52 which will take place November 12-14, 2026. **Please be sure to mark your calendars now!**



We are currently on track to have 40 vendors for Mistletoe Mart 2026. Vendor jurying is in process and will be complete by the end of March.

After careful consideration, the decision was made to increase the admission price from \$5.00 to \$7.00. (Children 12 and under remain free.) As a reminder, the admission ticket is good for all three days of the Mart.

Based upon the proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2025, we have begun to make donations to both Ascension and Community Outreach initiatives, including:

\$ 27,500 to Ascension

\$ 7,500 to Community Outreach, including:

- Access Carroll
- The Arc of Carroll County
- Camp Thrive
- Caring Carroll
- Carroll County Food Sunday
- Carroll County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB)
- Claggett Center
- DreamBuilders MD, Joyce's Crew
- Meals on Wheels
- Northeast Social Action Project
- The Shepherd's Staff
- Target Communication & Educational Services
- Westminster Church Homes Foundation (was Timber Ridge)
- Westminster Rescue Mission
- YMCA Turkey Trot

Without your support this would not be possible. Thank you!

Kim Tompkins
Mistletoe Mart Chair

Book Club



Join us at 12:30 pm in the Guild Room.

April 29: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

May 27: *Theo of Golden: A Novel* by Allen Levi

June 24: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown

For more information, please contact Cheryl Vecera at 443.794.3691 or cherylvecera@gmail.com

1844 Shoppe

It's April at **THE 1844 SHOPPE** and we have some GREAT items for you to see...

During April **20% off All Furniture**

Open Fridays from 10 am - 1 pm and

Saturdays from 10 am - 1 pm

NOTE: We will be closed on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4

THE 1844 SHOPPE is located at

Church of the Ascension, 23 N. Court Street, Westminster, MD

The Ralph Street parking lot offers plenty of free parking next to the shop.



Fellowship



Volunteers are needed to host. We want to keep it VERY simple by providing coffee, and using snacks that are available in the church pantry. Coffee making instructions are provided. All you need to do is make coffee, set out a few platters or baskets of snacks, monitor the coffee and make more if necessary and clean up. There is a new signup sheet on the kitchen door. Training is available! Questions? Please contact Ellen Anderson.



DreamBuilders MD Fundraiser: Thank You!

The March 14 DreamBuilders' Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction and iPhone Raffle was a big success! The weather was perfect and the attendance was great. Ascension contributed: 7 gift cards, 18 bottles of wine and \$725 from the sale of 39 of 40 raffle tickets!

Net Income = \$24,687.96! This is almost enough (\$25K) to finance the construction of one new house in Kentucky!

Please consider joining one or both of our trips planned for this year:

- June 21-27 Hazard, KY
- October 18-24 San Juan, Puerto Rico

Please contact Buck Lyon-Vaiden for more information.



Fundraisers *Mark Your Calendar*

Texas Road House
21 S. Cranberry Road
Westminster, MD
April 27 & July 6
3:00pm - 10:00pm
Eat at Texas Road House and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to Church of the Ascension.

Hawaiian Paradise Dinner-Dance
Fellowship Hall
June 13
4:00pm - 9:00pm

Additional information coming soon.

Church of the *Ascension*
Connect. Grow. Serve.

The **United Thank Offering** is a practice of gratitude. Each day, we are invited to notice the good things that happen — the small mercies, the quiet blessings, the unexpected joys. We give thanks to God for those blessings, and as a tangible sign of gratitude, we place a coin or bill in our UTO box. Please take a box home, keep it somewhere visible, and let it remind you daily to give thanks. **Our UTO Ingathering will take place on Sunday, April 26.**



German Christmas Markets: November 30-December 16, 2026

17-day trip to visit 6 cities and their Christmas markets:
Frankfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Nürnberg, Stuttgart, Heidelberg.

Experience the sights, sounds, food & drink of the markets along with many opportunities to attend concerts and to visit museums.
Travel between cities will be by train.
Group size: a maximum of 12 travelers.



Contact Buck Lyon-Vaiden for more information.



Spring Concerts

Chamber Music on the Hill presents

'Songs of Spring'

Trio Sirènes

Friday, April 17, 2026, 7 p.m.
Krug Chapel, Carroll Lutheran Village



Karin Brown: Viola
Marcia McHugh: Flute

Jaqueline Pollauf: Harp

To John Keats' poetic question 'Where are the songs of spring?', Trio Sirènes replies with the strains of flute, harp and viola and a program that combines standard repertoire, works by contemporary composers, and transcriptions from earlier time periods. Join us for a relaxing evening on the lovely campus of Carroll Lutheran Village as we usher in spring with this exquisite and creative ensemble.

Tickets at door and online/PayPal: www.McDaniel.edu/CMOTH

General: \$20; Seniors/Military: \$15; Children and Students free



A World of Music: Chamber Music on the Hill

MAY 3RD AT 3PM

MASTERWORKS
CHORALE OF CARROLL COUNTY



Scan the QR code to order your tickets!
Tickets also available at the door.

DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

at Winters Mill High School
560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Easter Flowers 2026

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund, and help beautify the church at Easter time, while remembering loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone/something, please list the names below and mail or return to the Church office by no later than **Wednesday, April 1.**

Checks should be made payable to **Church of the Ascension** in any amount. Please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check.

Your Name: _____

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157