



The Church of the Ascension  
Rockville Centre, New York

## Adult Christian Education 2021/2022

**Christian Funerals 101: *A planning seminar*** – Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 11:30am.

Yes, it is Halloween morning, but we all know that real death is no joke. The Christian funeral is first and foremost a proclamation of Jesus's triumph over death, and through him, our victory over death as well. This seminar is designed for everyone, not just those who are elderly or unwell. Everyone should understand how funerals are planned, and what is and is not permitted and why. After this seminar you should be able to leave a basic outline of your wishes for your loved ones, so that they don't have to make these difficult decisions during an emotionally fraught time.

### Book Discussions

*All meetings will be hybrid (online + in-person)*  
*Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm*

**Walk in Love** *by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe:* Nov. 4, 11, 18 & Dec. 2.

If you were a visitor to our church you probably received this book as a gift in your welcome bag. This is quite simply one of the best basic introductions to the Christian life as it is lived in the Episcopal Church. This class is open to anyone, but if you are new to the Episcopal Church and considering being received and/or confirmed as an adult, this is a class you should take. What is the difference between the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church? What is the faith that we proclaim each week? Come and find out!

**God and the Gay Christian** *by Matthew Vines:* Jan. 13, 20, 27, & Feb. 3.

Few issues have been more controversial in the church in the past 40 years than that of the role of LGBT individuals in the life of the church. This book is written from the perspective of a gay Christian who wishes to take scripture seriously, while at the same time arguing for

acceptance and inclusion of committed same-sex relationships. Anyone wanting to have a deeper understanding of how Christians can be affirming of same-sex relationships and still have a high view of scripture as the Word of God should consider joining us as we read this book and discuss some of the difficult scriptural passages and history that the author explores.

**Morality** by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: Feb. 10, 17, 24.

The lately departed Rabbi Sacks has a challenge for everyone in this book, whether liberal or conservative. His analysis of the erosion of morality over the past 50+ years is stinging and he does not shy away from critiquing idols of either the Left or Right. Sack's conclusion is that morality is not something that can be outsourced to either free-market forces or to the state, but must be practiced and learned by individuals living in community. This book is a challenge to all, but for those who take right and wrong seriously, it is a necessary challenge.

**Dominion** by Tom Holland: April 28, & May 12, 19, 26.

Much of what we take for granted in our liberal Western democracies has one identifiable source: the Church. Tom Holland's exploration of how the Church has shaped Western society for the better is a *tour de force* that covers a huge amount of ground. While the Church is frequently blamed for many of society's ills (and Holland never shies away from pointing out its shortcomings), this book shows us how so much of what we value about Western society can be traced back to the influence of Christianity.

## **Lenten Bible Study** **Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm to 8:00pm.**

**The Gospel of John** March 9, 16, 30 & April 6.

Our soup and scripture series will return this year with an exploration of the fourth and most different gospel: the Gospel of John. Come and explore what makes this gospel so unique!

