



IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL
Episcopal/Anglican
Alexandria, Virginia



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

Lessons and Carols for Advent and the Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30 a.m.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Page references are for [*The Book of Common Prayer*](#).

Matin Responory: “I look from afar”

adapted by G.P. da Palestrina

Aspiciens a Longe

I look from afar:

And lo, I see the pow'r of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep:

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come:

to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: And lo, I see the pow'r of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Processional Hymn 56 “O come, O come Emmanuel”

verses 1-4, and 8

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

found in The Hymnal 1982

Greeting and Lighting of The Advent Wreath

We have lit the first two candles, one for **hope** and one for **peace**. Today we light the third candle, the candle of **joy**. Joy is all around us — in the children, the lights, the music, and gathering together. Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us—often even in times of worry and sorrow—Joy finds a way. And so today we open ourselves to Joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us... may we give it care and offer it to others.

Let us pray,

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

A BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city of Alexandria. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

First Reading: Revelation 21: 1-6, 9, 22-26

read by Doug John

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day -- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city,
new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Second Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

read by Wendy John

A New Covenant Written on Their Hearts

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt -- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 72: “Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes”

found in The Hymnal 1982

Richmond

Third Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

read by Beatrice Osumba

God is called upon to act and to come among us.

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 for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem: “And the glory of the Lord”

from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10

read by Rosi Urbine

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Recitative: “Behold a virgin shall conceive”

from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call His name Emmanuel, “God with us.”

Choir Anthem: “Oh, Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion ”

from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

ANGELIKA FARREN, mezzo-soprano

O thou that tellest
good tidings to Zion
Get thee up into
the high mountain.
O thou that tellest
good tidings to Zion
Get thee up into
the high mountain
Get thee up into
the high mountain.

O thou that tellest
good tidings to Jerusalem.
Lift up, thy voice, with strength
Lift it up, be not afraid.
Say unto the cities of Judah
behold your God.
Say unto the cities of Judah
Behold your God.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
Arise, shine, for thy light is come.
Arise, shine, for thy light is come.
And the glory of the Lord,
the glory of the Lord; is risen; is risen
Upon thee Is risen; is risen upon thee.
The glory, the glory, the glory of the Lord
is risen upon thee.

Fifth Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-18

read by Daryl Ott

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 59: “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

found in The Hymnal 1982

Merton

Sixth Reading: Luke 1:26-38

read by The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

The Angel Gabriel Visits the Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem: “Tota Pulchra es, Maria”

Josep Ollé Sabaté

Tota pulchra es, Maria,
et macula originalis non est in te.
Vestimentum tuum candidum quasi nix,
et facies tua sicut sol.
Tu gloria Jerusalem tu
tu laetitia Israel,
honorificentia populi nostri.

*Mary, you are all beautiful
and the original spot is not in you.
Your dress is as white as snow
and thy countenance is like the sun.
You are the glory of Jerusalem
you are the joy of Israel
You are the honor of our people.*

The Homily: The Rev. Susan D. Parsons

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

Want to give electronically? While the alms basin is being passed, you can also make an offering online using your bank account, debit, or credit card: just scan the code at right.

Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The loose plate offering will go to the Christmas Families program to be used to buy gifts for the additional families not “adopted” by parishioners. Please make checks payable to Immanuel, marked “Christmas Families”.

The Offertory: “Tomorrow shall be my dancing day” *16th century English carol* arr. Matthew Culloton

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

*Chorus: Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love,
my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.
Chorus

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.
Chorus

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard I from above,
To call my true love to my dance.
Chorus

As the offering is brought forward during the singing of the following verse, gifts given by parishioners for those in the Christmas Families program will also be presented at the Altar.

Offertory Verse: Hymn 56 (verse 1)

found in The Hymnal 1982

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
shall come to thee, O Israel!***

The Breaking of the Bread

S 164 Agnus Dei

found in the front of The Hymnal 1982

Franz Peter Schubert

Celebrant: The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We will receive at standing stations.

If you are physically unable to come to the Altar, please let an usher know that you would like to have Communion brought to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Choir Anthem: “The Tree of Life my soul hath seen ”

Jeremiah Ingalls

The tree of life, my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly have I bought;
I missed of all, but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm wearied with my former toil—
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Communion Hymn 67 “Comfort, comfort ye my people”

Psalm 42

Post Communion Prayer

*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.*

The Advent 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 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.*

Closing Hymn 74 “Blest be the King whose coming”

Valet will ich dir geben

The Dismissal

Clergy: Let us go forth in joy, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

Crucifer: Owen Biggs

Banner Bearer: Charlie Biggs

Acolyte: Isaac Kubista

Advent Wreath Lighter

and Prayer Leaders: The Bergmark-Wargo Family

Readers: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs, Doug John, Wendy John, Beatrice Osumba, Daryl Ott, Rosi Urbine

Musicians: Dr. Jane Tavernier (organ, Director of Music)
The Immanuel Choir, Denise Freeland (Assistant Conductor) Tim Kidder (violin), John Matzner (cello)

Ushers: Caroline Bergmark, Debbie Hewson, Tom Hewson

Altar Guild: Brooke Roberts

Flower Guild: The Immanuel Flower Guild

Coffee Hour Host: Wendy Lane John

Audio-Visual: Tamika Martin, The Rev. Jan A. Maas

Celebrant: The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, takes its name from the Latin word *Gaudete*, which means “rejoice.” It is the first word in the proper Introit for the third Sunday of Advent, from the Roman missal. It is often symbolized by a pink or rose color, hence the traditional pink candle in Advent wreaths.

The readings for this day are characterized by joy and expectancy, as we look towards the celebration of Our Lord’s Nativity.



A Brief History of LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons and Carols as we know it dates to December 1918, at King’s College, Cambridge, in the days immediately following the end of World War I. The Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of the College, reflected on his experiences as a British army chaplain and developed this liturgy as an opportunity to remember God’s great promises, even in the midst of so much suffering and untold devastation. The lessons speak of God’s great plan of salvation, articulated by Israel’s prophets and poets, and realized in the birth of Jesus Christ.

There are Advent and Christmas versions of the liturgy throughout the Anglican Communion, as this service has become a deeply beloved tradition for millions worldwide. The readings for this service in particular were chosen to highlight God’s promise of remaking and redeeming all things. Beginning with Christ, God has promised to make all things new.



Join with fellow Immanuelites in Richmond for the Virginia Interfaith Center "*Day for All People*" January 15, 2025

The Day for All People is the annual "lobby day" for the Interfaith Center, and Immanuel has long sent a sizable group to meet with our state representatives to learn about the legislative process and support legislation that advances issues of concern to a wide range of faith communities. We will once again rent a motor coach that we will share with folks coming from other Alexandria congregations. The Virginia Interfaith Center will be focusing its interaction with the General Assembly in part on two issues that the Vestry recently adopted as Immanuel policy:

- (1) legislation to make it easier for churches to build affordable housing on their property (a.k.a., "Yes in God's Back Yard"); this has been difficult for churches (such as nearby Resurrection) because of zoning restrictions (Immanuel has no such plans!); and
- (2) expanding prisoners' access to higher education, a priority of our Governor.

You can register on the Interfaith Center's website (go to www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org and scroll down). The Social Justice Committee can reimburse you if you'd like.

In this time of turmoil at the national level, it's rewarding to know that we can (and do) have a material impact on issues at the state level. Questions? Contact Jamie Conrad at jwc58@comcast.net.

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

December 15, 2024

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST we welcome you to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill!

Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Immanuel was founded by the Virginia Theological Seminary. We are one parish that worships in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road) on the seminary grounds. Both chapels offer a fully-staffed nursery for our infant and toddler parishioners.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card — located in the pews or display stands at the entrances of the chapels. Give your card to an usher or place in the collection plate. Thank you.

For the latest information on our online worship service and to view a video of our most recent service, please visit our website (www.icoh.net).

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS: Aggie Fortune, Ann MacNamara, Barbara Ramsdell, Catherine Sinclair, Cynthia Dolvin, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Joan, Joseph, Ken and Mia Mason, Kenny, Lynn Gas, Mable Randolph, Margaret Messenger, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Ann Langdon Days, Anna Woodward, Ashleighana, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Betty Hicks, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Dana De Cecco, Dorothy Gerhart, Felicia Balzano, George Rustigian, Gerald, Jack Allen, Jean Couban, Jean Williams, Jennie Rae, Jessi Napolitano, Jill Lane, Joanne Perla, Joe Micelli, Joseph Fabian, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Joyce Di Misa, Kathryn Anschutz, Kathy Porter, the Rev. Kelly Moughty, Lavinia Johnson, Lilly Pinner, Linda Gill, Louise Jackson, Lucie Bauer, Lysbeth, Michael, Marcia Richardson, MariAnn Hollis, Marty Childs, McQuade Milligan, Mary Muniz, Pamela, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rebecca Smith, Richard Zitelli, Rosemary Wensing, Ryan Willis, Sarah Minor, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Candy Levin, Susan Stockton, Tiffany McCaslin, Kameran Onley, David Peabody, Kendra Smyth, Eve Anderson, Martha Byron, James Henry, Jo Ann Toledo, and David Phillips.

Serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, and Jonathan, Nicole, Alina and Nolan Anderson, and Scott.

12:15 p.m. TODAY in the Welcome Center **All Youth Invited to Tour VTS' Saint Nicholas Exhibit**

Immanuel's Children and Youth of all ages are invited to tour VTS' St. Nicholas Exhibit after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist today at 12:15p.m. in the Welcome Center. After the tour, please stay to enjoy Santa-themed snacks.



PRIVATE CONFESSION AVAILABLE FOR YOU

All parishioners are reminded of the opportunity for private confession to a priest. This sacramental offering is always available, but is perhaps especially appropriate during seasons of preparation such as Advent. Our Anglican approach to private confession is summed up well in the old saying: “*All may, none must, some should.*” Please reach out to any of the clergy directly if you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 17th @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II, Wednesday, December 18th, Zabriskie Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Book of Luke*”
Thursday, December 19th @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.
Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Evening Compline, Friday, December 20th @ 8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom



UPCOMING SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

December 15	8:00 a.m.	<i>Gaudete Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite I</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist Rite II</i>	Immanuel Chapel
December 18	7:00 p.m.	<i>Blue Christmas Prayer Service</i>	Parish Hall
December 22	8:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir	Immanuel Chapel
December 24	4:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	8:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Choral Ensemble, Brass and Harp</i>	
	9:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass</i>	
December 25	11:00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Organ and Carols</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
December 29	8:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel
January 5, 2025	8:00 a.m.	Epiphany Sunday (transferred) with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Children’s Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by Festive Reception</i>	Immanuel Chapel

CHRISTMAS GREENS, FLOWERS and SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC DEDICATIONS

This Christmas season you are invited to make a donation to help offset the cost of our Christmas greens and flowers, and/or the special music at our Christmas Eucharists. To make a memorial or thanksgiving donation for a loved one, or to make a thanksgiving dedication for some blessing, please complete and send this form along with your check to the Parish Office or place it in the alms box in the narthex. Names will be printed in our Christmas bulletins for all donations received **by noon this WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.** Please print all names very clearly, or email names to DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.



GREENS/FLOWERS: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of: _____



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC: GENERAL \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of: _____



Christmas Brass Quartet and Harp at Immanuel

Please indicate your special gift below with a checkmark.

Harp and Brass **SPONSOR \$100** Harp and Brass **PATRON \$200**

Given by:

Phone Number: ()

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of: _____

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road/ Alexandria, VA 22304-5200
www.Immanuel-on-the-Hill.org DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET



Praying with Scripture: An Opportunity for Reflection After Eucharist

Silent prayer or mediation draws us closer to God. When we focus on one of the Sunday scripture passages, we may discover more of God’s message to us. Beginning today — and continuing for the next three consecutive Sundays — we will have the opportunity to explore praying with scripture in the **Octagon Room** off the small Oratory Chapel following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pick up a treat at coffee hour, bring your bulletin, and join us to meditate on one of the scripture passages for the day. Our prayer time will conclude by 12:30 p.m.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD *with The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs* ***We will gather again this Wednesday, December 18th***

Join her this Wednesday from **10:00a.m. - 12 noon** at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. All are welcome!

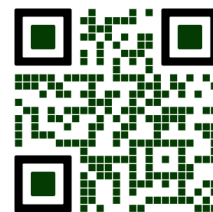


UPDATE: Every Member Pledge Campaign for 2025 “Living Gratefully”

As of Friday, December 5th, we had received around 100 pledges for a total of over \$548,000. This is a strong start, but we still have a ways to go, as we imagine this figure to be about half of those who will pledge. This is an opportunity for all of us to give back to God from all we have been given.

Prayerful and intentional pledging expresses our thanks for God’s many gifts, and it supports our beloved parish church in all of its many vital ministries and our life together in Christ.

In addition to filling out a hardcopy pledge form and mailing it to the church — or dropping it in the alms basis during a service — you can pledge online using Immanuel’s [website](#) and click the green *Pledge Here* button, or by scanning the QR code below at right.



DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025 IT’S EASY TO SIGN UP ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2025* ONLINE — including Gaudete Sunday and Christmastide masses —by visiting the landing page of our website at ICOH.net and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at right.



THANK YOU for your participation!

Hear directly from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem about the impact of the Gaza war on ministries of the Diocese, Al Ahli Hospital, and St. George's College



Webpage with Video

A powerful 4-minute video from Director Suhaila Tarazi of Al Ahli hospital (which was supported by Immanuel Outreach and Social Justice funds this year) is now available (by scanning the QR code at left), showing both damage to the hospital, its current working conditions and caseload, how it transitioned into Southern Gaza, and her hope for the future.

In addition, on Tuesday, December 17 at 1 PM EST, Archbishop Hosam Naoum (who worshiped with us during his time at the Seminary over a decade ago) and Dean Richard Sewell of St. George's College/Jerusalem will discuss the situation in Jerusalem, Gaza/West Bank, and the broader Middle East as it affects their ministries. Registration is required in advance; please scan the QR code at right to register.



Scan for Webinar 12-17-24



The Nominating Committee has begun its work of recruiting new members of the Vestry. If you have any suggestions or input please feel free to reach out to any member of the Committee: Gerry Anderson, chair, Amy Thomas, Peter Kent, Julie Bruns, Kathy Lloyd, Doug John, and the Rector. All may be reached through the Parish Directory.



BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

The grief and pain of life do not have to be left at the church door at Christmas, but can sit alongside the hope and light at the heart of the Christmas message. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00p.m.** in **Zabriskie Parish Hall** for a service of prayer, lament, and hope.



Monthly Saturday Breakfast Bible Study **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st @ 8:00 AM Held Online via Zoom**

Join Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study **Saturday, November 16th** online via Zoom (find this bulletin on our website under the "Worship" tab, then click on the link below) beginning at 8 AM. Our new theme for 2024 is *Anxiety!* This month we will read **Psalm 62 "Rest in God alone, my soul! He is the source of my hope...trust in him...pour out your hearts to him"** using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, please visit [our webpage "Breakfast Bible Study"](#), or contact Chrissie Crosby at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com.

[Join Zoom Saturday Breakfast Bible Study Meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553 /Passcode: 027913



CONFIRMATION CLASS FORMING: Immanuel is scheduled for a Bishop's visitation and Confirmation on Sunday, March 16, 2025. We will form a Youth Confirmation Class and a separate track for adults who want to be Confirmed or Received. Please reach out to any of the clergy if you are interested.

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr. (ralexander@icoh.net) Rector
 The Rev. Susan D. Parsons (sparsons@icoh.net) Associate Rector
 The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs (sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) Assistant Rector
 Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net) Assistant Treasurer
 Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net) Finance Manager
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net) Parish Administrator
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Gilma Balcarcel Nursery Coordinator
 Miguelina Guzmán Nursery Assistant
 Tim Lawhorn Sexton

THE VESTRY

Gerry Anderson Senior Warden and Senior Ministry
 Amy Thomas Junior Warden: Building and Grounds, Creation Care
 Peter Kent Junior Warden: Administration
 Taylor Houck Adult Formation and Discipleship
 Brad Ashton and Philip Brown Stewardship and Planned Giving
 Julie Bruns Outreach
 Kathy Lloyd Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
 Mark Fearer Social Justice and Pastoral Care
 Brian Rush Evangelism and Newcomers
 Matt Haskin Worship
 Caroline Bergmark Registrar, Communications
 Sophie Johnson, Sydney Onley, David Lloyd, and Isabelle Young-Smith Youth Representatives

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel
 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Online

www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org
[Immanuel's YouTube channel](#)

PRIESTS ASSOCIATE

The Rev. Dr. Sarah F. Coakley
 The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke
 The Rev. Jan A. Maas
 The Rev. John R. Smucker
 The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade

RECTOR EMERITA

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann (Sam) Faeth

MISSION STATEMENT: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, striving to be in relationship with God and each other as Christ has taught us, actively attempting to sense and to serve God’s plan with great love. We are guided by Mark 16:15: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,” to learn, discern, and proclaim the Good News by being active ministers in the various communities where we live and serve.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Fax: 703•370•0837

ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE