



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Episcopal/Anglican

Alexandria, Virginia



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 12:00 p.m.

Please stand during silent processional.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: *His mercy endures forever.*

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

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Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near -- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see -- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew
Response: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord
Response: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs.

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Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

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All stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying:

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

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- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling:

Most holy and merciful Father:

***We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.***

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Welcome

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 below.

Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Sanctus

Celebrant and People

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The people stand or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

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

We will receive Communion in a circle around the Altar, symbolizing our oneness in Christ as a community. Please follow the directions of the ushers, and remain in the circle after you have received until everyone has received. The group will then leave the circle together.

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

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*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.*

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The Blessing

The Dismissal

Clergy: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

<i>Reader:</i>	Brian Ply
<i>Psalm Reader & Intercessor:</i>	Rosi Urbine
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Aleta Y. Powell
<i>Flower Guild:</i>	Connie Kurz
<i>Ushers:</i>	Stewart Skubel, Agnes Soos
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander

Punxsutawney Phil says we have six more weeks of winter, but **Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship** won't let that get in our way!

- 1. POSTPONED:** The Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship trip to the **Alexandria Archaeology Museum**, originally scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, has been postponed due to timing issues. We will reschedule this trip for later in 2026.
- 2. THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE-ALEXANDRIA** will not be held this month because it falls on Ash Wednesday.
- 3. FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH with Special Video:**



Cover Art used with permission from the artist,
Kreg Yingst, 2025, *Our Lady of the Borderlands*.

Our brown bag program this month is a video of the lecture delivered by the **Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde** at the Albert T. Mollegen Forum, held at VTS on February 3rd. Her topic was **The Politics of Mercy** and it is sure to inspire conversation.

We will meet in the Parish Hall at **12:15pm on Tuesday, February 24**. Bring your own sandwich or salad, and drinks and dessert will be provided. No RSVP is necessary.

THE POLITICS OF MERCY 2026 Mollegen Forum

4. Looking ahead to March, we will enjoy a tour of **President Lincoln's Cottage, followed by lunch on Thursday, March 12**, details to follow.

5. THE GOODWIN HOUSE LUNCH will resume on **Wednesday, March 18**, and our own **Tom Kerns** will return to speak at the brown bag lunch on **Tuesday March 24** to prepare us for a visit to **St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, Md** on April 22. Put these dates on your calendar now.

AS ALWAYS, friends and neighbors are always welcome to join Senior Ministry and Fellowship activities.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word for "lengthen," referring to the lengthening of the days during this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere. It is, therefore, a season that looks forward and points towards the arrival of more light, and a new season.

Lent as a spiritual season is meant to do the same. The Church offers this season as a time to take inventory--of our relationship with God and with other people -- as we prepare for the great Christian feast, and season, of Easter.

The Lenten season lasts for 40 days, not counting the Sundays that fall within it. It draws upon the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness and, to a lesser extent, the 40 years the children of Israel wandered in the desert, and the 40 days and nights Noah and his family spent on the Ark.

The tradition of giving up something developed as a way to remember Christ's sacrifice for us when we miss the thing we have given up. However, others take on some added discipline, perhaps something that we have felt we need (or have been called) to do.

CONFESSION

Anglicans approach private confession in a classic middle way framed by the old adage, "All may, none must; some should." Lent is a particularly appropriate time to consider private confession as part of one's Lenten discipline and examination of life. If you would like to schedule an appointment for Confession, please contact any of the clergy. You can read over the rite for private confession in The Book of Common Prayer, beginning at p. 447.

LITURGICAL CHANGES IN LENT

On the First Sunday in Lent we will follow age-old Anglican tradition and pray the Great Litany, the first Christian worship service that was translated into English. Throughout the season we omit the ancient praise-shout "Alleluia" as a sign of solemn remembrance. Our liturgical color will change to purple, the traditional color of penitence, waiting, and expectation. We will make more space for silence in all of our liturgies, more of a time apart from our busy and often noisy lives.

LENTEN PRAYER AND WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL

Sundays

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II, Immanuel Chapel,
with Godly Play for 4-11 year-olds

Tuesdays

10:00 am

Morning Prayer, Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesdays

12:00 noon

Holy Eucharist Rite II, Zabriskie Chapel

5:15-6:00

Quiet Prayer, Oratory at Immanuel Chapel

Fridays

8:30 pm

Compline, by Zoom



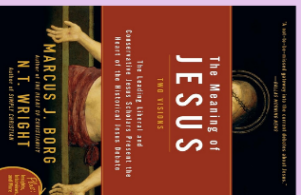
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LENT
AT IMMANUEL

LENTEN BOOK STUDY THE MEANING OF JESUS: TWO VISIONS

Join us for a Lenten book study and discussion on the thought provoking book: *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright.



What kinds of questions have you had about Jesus? Have you ever wondered if he knew that he was the Messiah? Have you ever been curious about how the resurrection could have occurred? Borg and Wright tackle these and other tough questions and come up with very different answers despite both being leaders in the Anglican tradition.

What: Book study and discussion about *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and NT Wright. You can purchase the book from your favorite book seller.

Who: A collaboration between St. Dunstan's and Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, facilitated by VTS seminarians Cami Caudill (St Dunstan's) and Signa Strom (Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill)

When: Thursdays at 7pm from February 19th - March 19th (5 weeks total)

Where: Meets on Zoom. To receive the Zoom link to participate, register at <https://forms.gle/98FBVQmUXPDamVa6>

2026 Lenten Series

Commending the Faith that is in Us: What might you say when someone asks what you believe?

In a world where Christian believers are surrounded by non-believers, skeptics, and true seekers, believers will increasingly be asked what they believe, and why. Those inquiring will expect credible answers, yet many Christians fear they wouldn't know what to say, or even how to begin to engage these honest questions. Our Lenten Series this year features a slate of distinguished speakers tackling some of the central questions seekers might ask of believers. We will engage typical questions, as they might come both from seekers/sceptics and from fundamentalist Christians, even role-playing some possible responses together. Join us each Sunday at 11:15 a.m., in the VTS Welcome Center, except for the first Sunday in March, when we meet in the Zabriskie Parish Hall.



February 22: *Eternal Life*
The Very Rev. Ian Markham, Ph.D., Dean and President, Virginia Theological Seminary



March 1: *The Incarnation, and Baptism*
Lisa Kimball, Ph.D., Vice President for Lifelong Learning and the James Maxwell Professor Chair of Lifelong Christian Formation, Virginia Theological Seminary
Please note change of location to Zabriskie Parish Hall for this presentation.



March 8: *The Bible*
The Rev. Kathy Grieb, Ph.D., Director Center for Anglican Communion Studies and Professor in New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary



March 15: *The Church*
The Rt. Rev. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia (who will be with us for his visitation and Confirmation)



March 22: *The Resurrection and Atonement*
The Rev. Sarah Coakley, Ph.D., Priest Associate at Immanuel, former professor at Harvard Divinity School and Cambridge University

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)	.....	Associate Rector
Signa Strom (sstrom@vts.edu)	.....	Seminarian
Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu)	.....	Seminarian
Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net)	.....	Director of Music
Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net)	.....	Parish Administrator
Tim Lawhorn	.....	Sexton
Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net)	.....	Treasurer
Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net)	.....	Assistant Treasurer
Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net)	.....	Finance Manager
Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net)	.....	Audio Visual Technician
Mina Sultani	.....	Nursery Director
Miguelina “Mimi” Guzmann	.....	Hospitality Assistant

THE VESTRY

Amy Thomas	.....	Senior Warden
Caroline Bergmark	.....	Junior Warden: Buildings and Grounds, Registrar
Peter Kent	.....	Junior Warden: Administration
Mark Fearer	.....	Social Justice
Matt Haskin	.....	Worship
Rich Hobson	.....	Outreach
Taylor Houck	.....	Adult Formation and Discipleship
Dave John	.....	Fellowship
Doug Onley	.....	Stewardship and Planned Giving
Mary Ann Ring	.....	Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Brian Rush	.....	Senior Ministry, Pastoral Care
Kristin Whitman	.....	Newcomers and Communications
Sydney Onley	.....	Youth Representative

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, *First Sunday of every month*
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:00 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 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

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Ways to GIVE