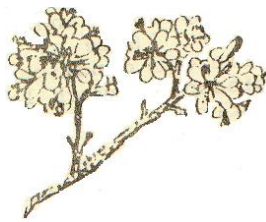


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. Mary Sulerud, Interim Rector
The Rev. David Crosby, Assistant Rector
Jennifer Addington, Editor



March 13, 2013

“My heart is rent and ready for God.”

Dear Friends,

Several years ago during a vestry meeting I led an exercise in which each of us was to create a personal prayer or phrase that we could use throughout Lent. I remember that the months preceding Lent had seemed particularly bleak in that I had “to die”, to put away some cherished dreams and ambitions. What came to me in that exercise was this prayer, “My heart is rent and ready for God.” My heart had been broken and opened to God working in and through me in new ways. What a gift of hope it was!

We will soon enter the holiest week of the year for Christian people beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding on the Day of Resurrection, Easter Day. Holy Week for me is that walk that breaks open my heart and makes it ready for God’s new possibilities in Christ. Each day with its own singular liturgy is, in the words of Joan Chittister, “Jesus with us, for us, and in us as we strive to make his life our own.” In Holy Week the particular life we make our own is in fact Christ’s passion and death so that we might faithfully embrace his resurrection and ours.

This year we will keep the week with daily worship. Beginning with Palm Sunday we bless palms and celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. The blessing of the palms and traditional procession with the donkey will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the site of the old Immanuel Chapel and, guided by an officer from the Alexandria City Police Force, we will cross Seminary Road and continue in procession singing to Zabriskie Chapel. Three new features of this year’s Palm Sunday celebrations will be that before the blessing of the palms we will say good-bye and give thanks for the old chapel in prayer. At the 10 a.m. service we will read the St. Luke Passion dramatically. (Readers are still needed.) At both services there will be no blessing or dismissal. We will ask all to leave in silence to enter Holy Week conscious of the solemnity of this time.

The week continues with celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Monday and Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, for the first time at Immanuel, we will be leading the service of Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m. The word Tenebrae is Latin for darkness or shadow. The service includes the reading of psalms and hearing from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, all the while the sanctuary grows darker and the candles are gradually extinguished on the altar. At the end of the service a single candle that is taken from the altar is returned as a sign of the triumph of light over darkness.

Maundy Thursday is the day in which we keep the Lord’s command to wash one another’s feet as a sign of the service we offer in love to each other, a wounded world and in memory of Christ Jesus. This service is at 7:30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist concludes with the stripping of the altar, a powerful sign of how all is stripped away from Jesus as he is condemned and executed on the cross. Joan Chittister again says it best, “The first days of Holy Week confirm: there are some things worth living for, even if we find ourselves having to die for them as well.”

On Good Friday we will have two services, at noon and 7:30 p.m. At noon we will make our way to Golgotha using the Stations of the Cross with stations that are offerings by members of Immanuel. This will be followed by the liturgy of the day. At 7:30 p.m. we will offer the complete liturgy of the day including the veneration of the cross and communion from the reserve sacrament. At the conclusion of communion all vestiges of sacred presence will be removed from the chapel as we enter a time of prayer and great emptiness and anticipation of the resurrection.

On Holy Saturday at 8:45 a.m. the liturgy for Holy Saturday will be offered. This short liturgy is a burial office in which we remember the time in which Jesus was in his tomb. At 6:30 p.m. we will light the first fire and the Paschal Candle and, to the most ancient hymn of the church the Exsultet, we will enter the dark sanctuary to hear the story of our salvation, celebrate Holy Baptism and, as we light the church, ring bells and shout the alleluias that announce the resurrection. Please bring bells to ring as we begin our celebration of Holy Eucharist. This service will be followed by a wonderful reception that breaks the Lenten fast.

Easter Day is a festive celebration of the resurrection at 7:30, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. There will also be a baptism at 9:15. This means that this year's Easter celebrations will be especially festive. We will be welcoming new members as well as new life on this joyous day. It is a day in which strangers, friends and family all join us to be welcomed into God's dream for a reconciled creation.

Easter is not just a Sunday; it is fifty days of celebrating the fulfillment of our life in Christ. We will have a special opportunity to keep the Easter Spirit alive among us on April 7th when we are invited after each service to join the members of Beth-El Synagogue in preparing the gift of life, oral hydration packets for use in emergency situations throughout the world. This oral hydration project is literally a life-saver for anyone who receives this gift. I can't think of a better way to extend our Easter joy than to join with our Jewish sisters and brothers and prepare this gift of life to be brought to wherever it is needed.

Watch with us. Walk with us this Holy Week and Easter. It will open your heart and make it more than ready for God in Christ Jesus.

God's peace and keeping,

Mary

REGION IV LENTEN SERIES: Don't forget the Region IV Lenten series on Wednesday nights hosted by the churches of Region IV. The basic theme of the series is "Science and Faith". There was an insert in the Almond Tree of January 23 outlining the entire series, but we especially wanted to bring your attention to the March 20 session, which will be hosted here at Immanuel. The topic will be "What will our bodies be like in heaven?" and will be presented by Dr. Sonderegger, Professor of Theology at VTS. As Christians we believe that we will have "life everlasting" not just as spiritual beings, but also that our bodies will be resurrected to new life as well. Dr. Sonderegger will talk about the various theories of how this could be possible, and share what our post-resurrection bodies might be like. The evening begins with Holy Eucharist at 6:30, followed by a light soup supper at 7 and the program itself runs from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping out with the soup supper, please contact Connie Kurz at Cgkurz@aol.com.



DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE Following the Skype interviews over the past two weeks, the Committee has reduced the number of applicants for the position of Rector to four in preparation for their visits to the parish. In summary, we are blessed with an exceptional group of candidates to be considered in this next to last discernment phase of our search. The Committee is truly excited about the prospect of meeting each of the candidates on our "home turf". The individual ICOH visits will include a tour of the Chapel, Parish Hall, and Rectory, questions and answers of opportunity as we continue the discernment process, and a brief Eucharist celebrated by the candidate. There will be a social aspect to the visit in the form of a private dinner. Typically candidates will be accompanied by their spouses. Following the visits to ICOH, we will reduce the list even further in preparation for visits to the home parishes of the remaining candidates. At the conclusion of these visits, a single name will be sent to the Vestry with the recommendation of the Committee that this person be called as our next Rector. As always, if you have any questions, please contact a member of the Committee, whose names are listed below.
Your Discernment Committee: Wendy John, Caroline Bergmark, Tom Brown, Governor Burke, Jim Clausen, Carrie Cuddy, Barbara Currie, Tom Harris, Doug Henry, Chandley McDonald, Eileen Monnin-Kirby, Martha Sedgwick.

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Duncan MacDonald, Morgan, Lloyd and Jean Mostrom, Nancy Wise, Janet Siegrist, Mary Goeser, Catherine, Susan Kernan, Mary, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Yvonne Pover, Kerry Kelly, Barbara Currie, Chris Enstrom.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Joan Aldretti, Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Susan Shallbetter, Tom Stasz, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Stephen Miller, Jim Rarick, Irv Schiff, Patricia Smith, Josie Guardipee, Helen Butler, Sam Faeth, Lawrence Sanchez, Paul, Joan Cummins, Eric Reading, Sr., Cameron, Sue Rehnke, Laurie, Caitlin Rivers, Patricia Ryan, Chris Stanek, Dana Hengst, Anthony Christino, Jr., Dru Eckard, Elesa McFadden, Mike Hart, Jane Burton, Mike Hart, Jane Burton, Laura, Keith Green, Evelyn Rowe, Meg Clontz, Chris Moore, Lois, Steve Wells, Percy Hays, Nancy Engleman, Alex, Patrick Ogden, Laura Watt, Marian, Ray Dovell, Tom Hewson, Sr., the Rt. Rev. Coleman McGehee, Adrian and Bob Love..

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Todd Bates, Paul Bednar, Yolanda Bednar, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller, Philip Smucker, Jon Anderson, Nicole DeBien, Noah Barker, Kendra Smyth.

PASSION GOSPEL READERS STILL

NEEDED! We are still looking for participants in the dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel at 10 a.m. on Palm Sunday. This is a very rewarding and moving experience. Contact the clergy if you are interested.

STEPHEN MINISTRY WORKSHOP OFFERED AT GRACE CHURCH ON APRIL 20:

Learn how to care for people who are grieving, and reach out to others who are facing difficult situations, in a distinctively Christian way. On Saturday, April 20, Grace Church will host a Stephen Ministry Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The half-day workshop is designed both to enhance participants' care-giving skills and to help other congregations explore ways to expand their caring ministry. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and refreshments will be served.

For more information:

<http://region4.thediocese.net/news/newsView.asp?NewsId=409684188>

FORUM HOUR MARCH 17: Five Talents helps impoverished women and men living in Asia, Africa and Latin America set up micro-businesses that can generate a sustainable income for themselves and their families. We work in 12 countries -- often in communities that have not been reached by larger organizations.

Five Talents organizes savings and loan groups, provides loan capital, trains these group members in basic business skills, and provides opportunities for spiritual support and development through the local Anglican Church. This holistic approach ensures that the women and men in the savings and loan groups have a support system that can help them develop their skills, grow their businesses and overcome adversity, like the sudden illness of a family member or the loss of a crop.

Sonia Patterson, Executive Director, just returned from South Sudan and Burundi. She will be telling us about her experiences with the savings & loan groups in those countries and sharing stories of the wonderful ways in which our outreach money is being used.



ICOH MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP

Ahoy, men of Immanuel. The date of this year's Annual Immanuel Men's Group's rock fishing expedition is **Friday, May 3rd**. As in the past, our fishing boat(s) will be departing that morning at sunup from Deale, Maryland (about one hour from D.C./Alexandria). Also as in the past, we'll be gathering the evening before (Thursday, May 2nd) at the Herrington Harbour Inn (located nearby the boat launch site) for our traditional Amanly meal) and a good night's sleep. We have secured one of usual two boats (the "Miss Grace") and a new boat (the "Miss Margaret") and I have reserved a block of rooms in my name at the Herrington Harbour Inn. I am assembling a list of planned attendees and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in going by March 31, 2013, so that I can put together a distribution list, and, if necessary, consider making more specific food and room arrangements. I will be issuing a detailed memo in early April, which will contain more information on cost, schedule, *etc.* In the meantime, you can contact me by e-mail, phone or in person at church. My phone number is 703-751-9238 and my e-mail address is djohn@jhenergy.com. Doug John.



(All services are in the Zabriskie Chapel, unless otherwise noted)

Palm Sunday, March 24

8:00 a.m., Palm Sunday Liturgy, Blessing of the Palms, reading of Passion Gospel, Holy Eucharist I
9:30 a.m., Thanksgiving for Immanuel Chapel, Palm Sunday Liturgy, Blessing of Palms,
Procession across Seminary Road
(Begins at site of Old Immanuel Chapel, on grounds of Virginia Theological Institute)
10:00 a.m., Reading of the Passion Gospel, Holy Eucharist II

Monday, Tuesday, March 25-26

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 p.m., Service of Tenebrae, Zabriskie Chapel

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m., Foot-washing, Holy Eucharist, Solemn stripping of the altar

Friday, March 29, Good Friday

12:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross, Good Friday Liturgy
7:30 p.m., Good Friday Liturgy, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion from reserved Sacrament

Holy Saturday, March 30

8:45 a.m., Liturgy for Holy Saturday
6:30 p.m., Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist II, followed by Reception
(Bring bells to ring as we greet the Day of Resurrection)

Easter Sunday, March 31

7:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15 a.m., Holy Baptism and Festival Eucharist Rite II
11:15 a.m., Festival Eucharist Rite II
10:15 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt

NOTE: The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday



EASTER DEDICATIONS



As Easter approaches you are invited to dedicate Easter lilies or special music in remembrance of a departed loved one or in thanksgiving for God's many blessings. If you wish to make a dedication please send in the form provided below with your donation to the parish office or place it in the offering plate during Sunday services. Names will be printed in the Easter leaflets for dedications received no later than Monday, March 18.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY!

Easter flowers \$ _____ Easter music \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Daytime phone number _____

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-370-6555
office@icoh.net
http://www.icoh

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



March 17, 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., Service of Healing with HEII

March 24, Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14—23:56

March 31, Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12



Oral Re-Hydration Therapy

6th Annual Outreach Project with Temple Beth EI & Immanuel Church on the Hill

When? March 14 and March 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. we need about 30 volunteers to insert directions in the ORT packets

April 7, any time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. This is the BIG EVENT, when we can use all the volunteers who show up. No need to sign up, just show up.

Where? All events take place at Temple Beth EI, 3830 Seminary Road. Enter the building through the rear parking lot.

What? We assemble packets of dry ingredients (sugars & salts) that are shipped under the auspices of the United Nations & other charities to scenes of natural or man-made disasters (war, famine, floods, & earthquakes). Packets prepared in 2009 were used in Haiti. Packets prepared last year were used in the Philippines where Typhoon Bopha killed 700 people & muddy waters washed out entire villages & disrupted clean water supplies.

After church, on April 7, the Sunday after Easter, donate 1 hour or more of your time. Sit at a table with old or new friends. Measure a dry ingredient; pour it in bowl which is passed to others doing the same, with the last person pouring all the ingredients into a packet. Our goal is 20,000 packets.

SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT is a six-week program that in Spring, 2013 will meet on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., beginning April 14 through May 19. Classes will run concurrently and are limited to 12 participants each. Our sessions will begin with dinner in the Parish Hall promptly at 6:00 p.m., followed by a short meditation. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge for registration in School for the Spirit. The suggested contribution for dinner is \$10 each. Some courses may require the purchase of books or other course materials. Scholarship assistance is available for any who need help with these costs. Please contact the clergy.

In addition, CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE.

CLASSES OFFERED

SCIENCE AND RELIGION WITH BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR'S "THE LUMINOUS WEB"

Mentor: Andy Biache; Co-Mentor: Warren Phillips

Taylor is an Episcopal priest in Georgia holding the Chair in Religion and Philosophy at Piedmont College. Complementing the use of her book, we will refer to John Haught's "Making Sense of Evolution". He is Emeritus Professor of Theology at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow in Science and Religion at Georgetown's Woodstock Theological Center. Kathleen Duffy's edited "Rediscovering Teilhard's Fire" will also be used. She is Professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College. An award-winning film, "Journey of the Universe" will be shown on the last week of class. NOTE: Purchase of the books is not a prerequisite for the class.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Mentor: Rev. Mary Sulerud

More than any other gospel writer, Luke offers in the parables of Jesus a vision of restorative justice. In the beloved parables of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and the lost sheep Jesus tells us stories that give us a vision of the goal of God's reconciliation, paradise restored and the broken mended and participants in new life. Come and explore the idea of sinners fully restored to a life in Christ and what that means in our everyday lives when it comes to not only forgiving those who have done wrong, but giving them an opportunity to participate fully in relationship with us. **Please note that this class will have three sessions only, during the first three weeks of School for the Spirit.**

BIBLE WORKBENCH

Mentor: Rev. Bill Dols

The Bible Workbench is a lectionary-based biblical resource designed to assist small groups in reflecting upon how God's story is our story. Participants are asked to commit themselves to the entire course during which we will weekly engage the Bible selection appointed for worship the following Sunday. The hour will be devoted to exploring together how the text is happening in the world around us and is, as well, an event in our lives.

OUR WEAKNESS IS OUR STRENGTH

Mentors: Pete Bolton and Bud Hart

The spirituality of the two halves of life is the perfect partner for 12 Step Spirituality. We will study this mystery: How can our failings be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth and how can we move from such disappointments towards the spiritual progress the second half of life has in store. All are welcome to participate in this discussion.

LITERATURE AND FAITH: WHEN REAL LIFE INTERSECTS WITH SPIRITUALITY

Mentors: Martha Taggart and Lisa Yount

We will sample readings from several contemporary authors and poets on topics that intersect with most adults' lives: children, parents, aging, illness, death & grieving, food, energy, the environment, and the redeeming power of nature. Each week's readings will focus on different chapters, essays or poems. Authors will most likely include John Updike, Joan Didion, Annie Dillard, Alice Waters, E.O. Wilson, Al Gore, Jamie Oliver, Anne Lamott and more; and we'll look at poems by Mary Oliver, Billy Collins, Richard Blanco, and Natasha Tretheway. We will try to have copies of all reading selections available the week before and -- for those who have an interest -- facilitate online discussion before/in addition to meeting each week.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR
ENROLLMENT IN THE SCHOOL FOR THE
SPIRIT:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-
mail: _____

Home
phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Which class would you like to take?

First choice: _____

Second choice: _____

WE WILL LET YOU KNOW IF YOUR FIRST CHOICE
IS NOT AVAILABLE

RETURN APPLICATION, **BY MARCH 31**, TO:

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304-5200

**OR, SIGN-UP ELECTRONICALLY ON
THE WEB-SITE AT www.icoh.net.**

CHRISTIANITY AND WAR

Mentors: Retired Priest John Smucker and
Colonel Keith June

War is as old as human civilization. Indeed for over a decade, our nation has been engaged in two wars. These conflicts have touched every segment of our society. Our region in particular has been greatly affected by the ongoing wars. War raises many basic and profound questions for Christians. To many the idea of war runs counter to Christian faith. Should Christians engage in war? What does our faith tell us about war and the conduct of war? This series will examine Christianity and war. Taught by Retired Priest, John Smucker, and Colonel Keith June, the classes will present two perspectives of a very difficult topic.

SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT



April 14 ó May 19, 2013
Sundays, 6:00 ó 8:30 p.m.
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Alexandria, Virginia

