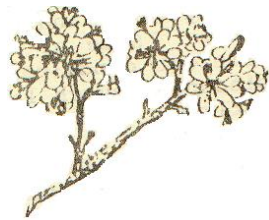


THE ALMOND TREE

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr., Rector
The Rev. David M. Crosby, Associate Rector
Jennifer Addington, Editor



March 26, 2014

"I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed." Nikos Kazantzakis

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

A new column looking at some of the things we do when we gather for worship.

Why do we stand for the Gospel?

From time to time people ask why we stand for the reading of the Gospel lesson in Church. After all, by the time we stand we have usually sat through the Old Testament lesson, the Psalm, and the Epistle reading from the New Testament. We consider all of those readings to be part of Holy Scripture, which we Anglicans believe to be the word of God, and to contain "all things necessary to salvation" (Book of Common Prayer, page 526). So why do we treat the Gospel so differently?

The simple answer has to do with the purpose of the Gospels themselves. The writers of the four Gospels set out to tell the story of Jesus—from His birth, teaching and ministry, to the calling of His first followers, to His crucifixion and Resurrection, and to the appearances after His Resurrection. The Gospels are meant to be a "synopsis" of the story of Jesus. In fact, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the "synoptic" Gospels, due to the synopsis they provide, and we focus on one of these three for each of the three years of the lectionary cycle. The Gospel of John is drawn upon at various points throughout the three years.

So our standing for the Gospel lesson is not meant to diminish our respect for the other readings from the Bible. Standing is meant to show our respect for the summary of the life and teaching of Our Lord that the Gospels provide.

REST IN RETREAT

This past week, I took time away from Immanuel to retreat at Richmond Hill, an ecumenical Christian residential facility, for rest, fellowship, and to dedicate time to a personal project. It has been a special place for me since I entered into this 'late vocation' of ordained ministry. The Discernment Retreat I attended to better understand the diocesan process leading up to ordination was held there. My seminary class (VTS'12) made our 1st year retreat to Richmond Hill.

One aspect of Richmond Hill that deeply resonates with me is the resident community which supports the mission and ministry of this historic monastic setting; a VTS classmate is one of their Associate Pastors. Their primary work is "to seek God's healing of Metropolitan Richmond through prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation and spiritual development." Richmond Hill offers a regular cycle of intercessory prayer (morning, noon, and evening) during the week over the Commonwealth's capital city. Over the Altar in the chapel, Psalm 127:1 adorns the wall, "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman keeps vigil in vain."

A retreat is commonly a 'period of days spent away from ordinary routine, frequently in silence, and occupied in meditation and rest.' Richmond Hill invites guests to join in their community worship, which could also include talks, reflections, and meetings or working individually with a spiritual director. Retreats are not uncommon to Immanuel. The newly-elected vestry makes retreat the weekend following the Annual Meeting. Some have experienced retreats during Advent and/or Lent at the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA. In fact, our annual Shrine Mont gathering of the parish at Shrine Mont is a less-formal, loosely-structured retreat.

I walked the labyrinth called The Jerusalem Mile that looks out over the metropolitan Richmond skyline (I was glad to have that time and space for myself). I listened to music while lying on my bed to relax and read in my room. I climbed to the cupola of the Adams-Taylor House, the highest vantage point, to contemplate the history and serenity of the place. My project work was accomplished between my room and that wonderful cupola space. I joined those gathered there for prayer in the Chapel before meals in the Refectory. I left Richmond refreshed and renewed.

Consider a personal retreat. Step away from your ordinary work of life into a refreshing time of prayer, rest, and fellowship. Please give a thought to visiting Richmond Hill for yourself.

Peace & Cheers, David+

PASTORAL CARE CORNER: Please remember these parishioners in your prayers: Jean Schnedl, Morgan, Catherine, Mary, Duncan MacDonald, Yvonne Pover, Natalie Doyle-Hennin, Bill Frye, Barbara Fornoff, Dana Hengst, Chris Stanek, Warren Phillips, Sharon Waiss, Norma and Dick Taliaferro, John and Louisa Smucker, Mary-Jo Cooney, David Lindsey, Martha Sedgwick, Dick Hobson, Rollin Huntington.

Please also remember in your prayers members of our extended Parish family: Dean and Charlotte Kellogg, Chris Rarick, Eleanor Boothe Smith, Sam Faeth, Anthony Christino, Jr., Jane Burton, Keith Green, Lois, Alex, Marian, and Bob Love, Tom Hewson, Sr., Danny Christoffersen, Ross Dickerson, Jim Clear, Lindsey Rose, Cathy and Stewart Hoskins, Laura Hudson, Ann and Larry Kaplan, Aubree Bowling, Marjorie Glassco, Paul, Kathryn, Carol Brown, Scott, Bob Weeks, Sharon Laboditz, D. Elizabeth Peters, Patricia, Howard Sutherland, Mary Jean Anderson, Mildred, Dan Wells, .Erin and Rob Schiesel, Marianne and Gerard Ennis, Bill Ennis, Jack Lewis, Linda Monzi, Elesa McFadden, Thomas Arminio, Boyd Noorda, Jewel, Ryan.

Those serving in the U.S. and overseas: Todd Bates, Ian Phillips, John Patrick Miller; Jon and Nicole Anderson, Noah Barker, Will Murtha, Allen Kellogg, Keith June, Carolyn Bartley, Janice Corbett.

FAREWELL TO SUZANNE LAMB: Following the 9:15 am service on Sunday March 30, there will be a special coffee hour for Suzanne Lamb in the Fairchild Room off of Nelson Parish Hall. Please stop by to say farewell to Immanuel's longtime parishioner before she leaves us for State College, Pennsylvania!

EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION HELPERS NEEDED: Following the Great Vigil of Easter service on Saturday, April 19, there will be a festive reception in Nelson Parish Hall to break our Lenten fast. Volunteers are needed to help organize, set up, serve, and/or clean up at this event. Please help! To volunteer or find out more, contact Sara Fein at sarabfein@gmail.com or 703-931-5824.

PRAYER WATCH: The days, hours, and location of our 16th annual Prayer Watch will be different this year. This will align the Watch better with other Holy Week church services. The Prayer Watch will begin on Thursday, April 17 at 9 p.m. in the Zabriskie narthex, following the traditional Maundy Thursday service. The watch will continue in the Narthex until Friday, April 18th at 6 pm., prior to the Good Friday service. Immanuelites are invited to take part in the Prayer Watch by giving one hour of their time to create an unbroken vigil. Participation may be passive or active, including prayer, reading, music, art work, writing, journaling, or just being present in silence and remembrance. A sign-up board will be placed in the Narthex. Questions? Call Andy Biache, 703-836-6853.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! - We will walk the Way of the Cross as part of our Good Friday noonday and 7:30 p.m. liturgies on April 18. Each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross, we hope, will be illustrated by an artist of Immanuel. We seek depictions of particular moments from the Passion of Jesus Christ, and we welcome diversity in media, whether it be painting, sketch or print, a sculpture, or textiles (quilts, needlework, etc.) for our stations. Younger members of Immanuel are particularly welcome to contribute. The Stations will adorn the Chapel and Narthex space as we 'walk the Way of the Cross.' If you are interested in participating, please contact the Rev. David Crosby (dcrosby@icoh.net) for guidance on individual stations, size specifications and their placement. Thank you.

SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT Wednesday nights from April 30 and May 7, 14, and 21: School for the Spirit is coming back to Immanuel for the four weeks after Easter, with an informal friendly dinner in the Parish Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m., and then dividing into three or four classes until about 9:15. Classes are likely to include a class by the Rev. Randy Alexander; possibly a literature and faith reading group; and African Bible study. Watch for brochures coming out soon.

FORUM HOUR, SEPTEMBER 30: We will welcome back the Rev. Dr. James Farwell of Virginia Theological Seminary, as he leads the next session in our Lenten series on prayer. Today Dr. Farwell will focus on the prayer of Intercession, our praying for others, and how those prayers take shape in both our private prayers and in our liturgical prayer together.



IMMANUEL 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 2nd**. 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 1st) 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 the same boats as last year (the "Miss Grace" and 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 April 4, 2014, so that I can put together an expanded 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 home phone number is 703-751-9238 and my e-mail address is djohn@jhenergy.com. Doug John

BIBLE AND BREAKFAST? Is there any interest in forming a weekly breakfast scripture study group? It might meet for an hour at 7 a.m. at a local restaurant (separate checks). On a week day? On a Saturday? Perhaps to study an upcoming lesson for Sunday. Sharing scripture, fellowship and a meal is a great way to start the day. If you have interest, ideas and/or comments please contact Scott Bunn by email sbunn8@gmail.com or by phone 760 898-1753.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A SPECIAL MINISTRY HERE AT IMMANUEL:

Our Memorial Garden team is in need of a few individuals who are available to help dig the hole when we have an interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden. This is usually done during the day, the day before a Memorial Service. If you are interested in helping out with this important task (thankfully, not too often!), please let Jennifer know in the parish office.

THE EcoVoce ENSEMBLE RETURNS TO IMMANUEL ON APRIL 6 AT 5:00 PM IN ZABRISKIE CHAPEL!

The EcoVoce Ensemble, directed by Immanuel's Denise Freeland, teams up with The University of Mary Washington Chorus, directed by Immanuel's Dr. Jane Tavernier, in a Washington Area Concert Premier of *Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary* composed by Karl Jenkins. You'll experience the beauty, wildness, and people of South Africa in this multimedia concert inspired by ethnic music from the region. The EcoVoce Ensemble, which specializes in music about nature and the earth, presents this innovative program as part of its 15th anniversary celebration. Visit www.ecovoce.org.

Suggested donation: \$10. \$5 for students (including VTS students).

WHAT'S NEW ON IMMANUEL'S WEBSITE:

You can find resources for your Lenten journey with a single click!

Just go to the main page at www.icoh.net and press on the new purple button marked "+LENT+".

04/01 Laura Curtis
 04/01 Kathryn Haskin
 04/01 Samuel Donlon
 04/01 Alexander Donlon
 04/02 Melissa Ennis
 04/02 Sarah Corkern
 04/02 Will Ashton
 04/02 Caro Page
 04/02 Gabi Larsen
 04/03 Jay Hambrick
 04/03 Ian Donahue
 04/03 Woodford Pollach
 04/04 Dan Kelly
 04/04 Bonnie Fairbank
 04/04 James Rath
 04/05 David Fite
 04/06 John Henderson
 04/07 Celina Stewart
 04/07 Matt Curtis
 04/07 Elizabeth Anderson
 04/07 Amanda Eisenhower
 04/07 Anderson Davis
 04/08 Warren Phillips
 04/08 Anna Biache
 04/08 Jonah Wagner
 04/08 Hayden Wagner
 04/08 Henry Nagel
 04/09 Katherine Ferguson
 04/09 Jim Clausen
 04/09 Randy Alexander
 04/09 Chris Rodriguez
 04/09 Scott Warlick
 04/10 Dana Compton
 04/11 David Hurley
 04/11 Maria Burke
 04/11 Tyler Gehrs
 04/11 Conner Parks
 04/12 Michael Briggs
 04/12 Elizabeth Hussey
 04/13 Jim Martin
 04/13 Sally Hamon
 04/13 Montie Martin
 04/13 Isabelle Young-Smith
 04/14 Sarah Fite
 04/15 Edith Bradbury
 04/15 Ginny Graef
 04/15 Christopher Calloway
 04/16 Larry Hamon
 04/16 Carla Murray
 04/16 Chandler Kourtesis



04/16 Madeleine Compton
 04/17 William Dols
 04/17 Thomas Curtis
 04/18 Stephen Hansen
 04/18 Harrison Barnes
 04/19 Pam Hunt
 04/19 Rebecca Cooper
 04/19 Timo Kirby
 04/19 Lila Greiner
 04/19 Nicholas King
 04/19 Sofia Richter
 04/20 John Smucker
 04/20 Jim Stewart
 04/20 Dylan Brown
 04/21 Joan Raybold
 04/21 Joanna Baltes
 04/22 William Davidson
 04/22 Elizabeth MacIntosh
 04/23 Dana Wilkie
 04/23 Roz Kerns
 04/23 David Tinkle
 04/23 Chris Hagan
 04/24 Eric Reading
 04/25 Mark Peterson
 04/25 Mary Ingold
 04/25 Hayden Stewart
 04/26 Martha Blakeslee
 04/26 Lisa Siegrist
 04/26 Pete Toman
 04/26 Alexander Skubel
 04/26 Hunter Davies
 04/27 Virginia Guild
 04/27 Douglas Coleman
 04/27 Martha Shimkin
 04/27 Lucas Thompson
 04/28 Janet Siegrist
 04/30 Catherine Guzzi

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We hope never to miss a birthday – but there are some we don't know about. Forgive us when we do miss your birthday, and let us know so we don't do it again. Happy birthday to all!

A Fond Farewell to Suzanne Lamb

One of Immanuel's true gems, **Suzanne Lamb**, is leaving us and the Virginia area to head up to a retirement community near where she grew up in State College, Pennsylvania. Suzanne joined our congregation in 1975 and began quite the "career" of volunteering and working in the church and the Alexandria community. She was an elementary school teacher in Alexandria for 30 years, followed by service as a substitute teacher for an additional 15 years. That just wasn't enough work for our Suzanne, though!

Suzanne served as Immanuel's representative to ALIVE from 1987 until 2010. As **Martha Manson** reminisced, "I will always remember her years of announcements when it was our month to collect food or deliver furniture." Suzanne also took on a major ALIVE program, as one of two Food Distribution Coordinators from 2006 until February of this year.

Suzanne has been a gracious Coffee Host for years and has happily greeted newcomers for years. **Rosi Stewart** recollected that "Suzanne was one of the very first people to welcome me to Immanuel. She was kind, welcomed me, told me about Immanuel and her work at ALIVE. She was most gracious, warm, lively, with such a wonderful spirit." **Rick Glassco** said "I too remember Suzanne as one of the first people we met at ICOH in 1980. After we had attended our second or third time she asked us to come paint the downstairs bathrooms, and we did. I remember standing on a toilet with a paint roller in hand wondering how she got us into that job."

Dotty Eisenhour summed up Suzanne's longstanding service to Immanuel with this tribute: "Suzanne will be missed at Immanuel and the Alexandria community as well. She was a very loyal Altar Guild member. She was also one of the best at taking care of the linens, silver and brass. I don't know how long she served on the Altar Guild, but she has been doing the altar for many years. I also enjoyed playing handbells with her and she never missed a practice or a performance. She was a great friend and will leave a big hole to be filled at Immanuel. She was also an extremely active volunteer for ALIVE and valuable to that organization for many, many years. Every city and church needs a Suzanne Lamb!!"

We asked Suzanne what inspired all her volunteering. She said that "to perform a service is so wonderful and a part of Christian commitment to the church. Altar Guild is so different from major coordination projects. It is beautiful and non-taxing, with a lovely calm and peace in preparing the altar." As for her Immanuel experience, "if I learned anything at Immanuel, it was grace. It is a place of beauty and clarity, with wonderful people...people who are graceful in their coping and calm acceptance of one another. I will miss Immanuel more than I now realize. Beautiful prayers and a depth of preaching from our clergy and VTS. What a House of God – full of grace, life-giving friends and simple, elegant beauty! It has been an honor to serve."

Well, State College, you are a very lucky city to be getting our Suzanne. She is already looking for volunteer opportunities at the elementary school near her new community! And to paraphrase Suzanne, we will miss her more than we now realize. Thank you, Suzanne. We wish you joy in your new home and hope for frequent visits to this, your former home.

Suzanne wants us to stay in touch. Here is her new address:
Foxdale Village; 500 East Marylyn Avenue, E-65; State College, PA 16801

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Link to April Calendar:
<http://tinyurl.com/aprilICOH>

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



March 30, The Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
8 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEI

April 6, The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEI

April 13, Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66

8:00 a.m., HEI; 9:15 a.m., HEII; 11:15 a.m., HEII