



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 10, 2016

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



(See inside for full description of all Holy Week services.)

Palm Sunday, March 20

8:00 a.m. Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist I, Zabriskie Chapel
Procession with donkey begins at 10:15 a.m. following Sunday School
processes to Seminary Post Office and to Immanuel Chapel
10:30 a.m. Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist II, Immanuel Chapel

Monday-Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by 7:30 p.m., Service of Tenebrae, Zabriskie Chapel

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:30 p.m., Maundy Thursday liturgy with washing of the feet
and Solemn Stripping of the Altar, Immanuel Chapel

All-night vigil at the Altar of Repose in the Oratory begins after this service, lasting until noon on Friday

Good Friday, March 25

12:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross, Immanuel Chapel
6:00 p.m., Children's Service for Good Friday, Immanuel Chapel
7:30 p.m., The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday, Immanuel Chapel

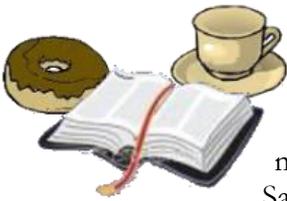
Great Vigil of Easter, March 26

7:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist, Immanuel Chapel,
(joining with the Church of the Resurrection)
followed by a reception in the Welcome Center
(See details on page 2)

Easter Sunday, March 27

7:30 a.m., Festival Holy Eucharist I, Zabriskie Chapel,
followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., Festival Holy Eucharist II, Immanuel Chapel
each service followed by festive receptions
Musical Preludes begin at 8:45 and 10:45

An Easter Egg Hunt follows the 9:15 a.m. Eucharist in the VTS Chapel Memorial Garden



BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY:

Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study will meet 19 March, the third Saturday. We gather in the

Fairchild Room at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, with Bible study beginning at 8 a.m.. We promise to be done by 9 a.m.! Our theme for this year is *God Calls Us to Listen*. This month we will read the Lord's Prayer, using the African Model of Reflection. Come, be fed in body and spirit with food, fellowship and God's word. For more information, please contact Scott Bunn (sbunn8@gmail.com) or Chrissie Crosby (cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com).



THE TRANSITION TO TWO CHAPELS SURVEY COMMITTEE

has been diligently working to analyze the survey results and prepare a written report. The committee has held multiple working sessions and is in the process of writing a report for distribution to the congregation. A presentation will be given at the April 4 Vestry meeting and at an upcoming Forum hour. A binder will be available in the parish office with original survey results (online and hand-populated), question tallies, as well as the survey report and presentation, for any interested parishioners to review.



SCHOOL FOR THE SPIRIT IS COMING WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY!

Every Wednesday evening, for four weeks from April 20 through May 11, join others in fellowship, dinner, and small group classes, from 7 PM to 9:15 PM. This year's class offerings may include Nurturing your Spiritual Growth with a Rule of Life; Faith and Art; Finding Your Spiritual Gifts; the Twelve Step approach to life for everyone; and Prison Ministry. Watch the Sunday bulletin and *Almond Tree* for upcoming details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: On Holy Saturday, March 26, Immanuel will join with the Church of the Resurrection in offering the beautiful and ancient Great Vigil of Easter, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel on the grounds of Virginia Theological Seminary. Following the service, there will be a festive reception with champagne and a chocolate fountain at the Welcome Center. This marks the end of the season of Lent, so please plan to attend and break your Lenten fast!

Confession – Although confession in the Episcopal Church takes place most often during the Sunday liturgy, the Church also offers private Confession to a priest for anyone desiring it. Lent is a particularly good time for Confession, as we prepare for Easter, and especially if one has some particular sense of guilt that needs to be let go to feel God's forgiveness. The old Anglican adage has it well regarding our approach to private confession: "All may, none must, some should."

Please call or email the clergy if you are interested in this opportunity.

A PRAYER FOR ALL OF US

O God of love, we pray thee to give us love:
Love in our thinking, love in our speaking,
Love in our doing, and love in the hidden places of
our souls;
Love of our neighbors near and far;
Love of our friends, old and new;
Love for those we find it hard to bear;
And love for those who find it hard to bear with us;
Love of those with whom we work,
And love of those with whom we take our ease;
Love in joy, love in sorrow;
Love in life and love in death;
That so at length we may be worthy to dwell with
thee,
Who art eternal love.

*William Temple,
Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-1944*

THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S CORNER:

One important ministry we all share as the Body of Christ is to pray for one another and others. It is part of our Baptismal Covenant promises. As we commit to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers," saying, "I will, with God's help," we are called to actively and intentionally pray for our own. I hope we each have our own personal prayer list, but we as a parish also have a corporate prayer list. The parish office and clergy learn, either directly or indirectly, through relationships and casual conversations, pastoral calls or visits, or from being alerted by others, of matters or issues that affect people of our parish in mind, body, or spirit. Here prayers may be in order. On Sundays, as part of the Prayers of the People, we name individuals of the parish by first name from a printed list in the bulletin.

In addition to those intercessions, we also collectively lift up friends, acquaintances, and members of our extended families who have any concerns as well that may be troublesome and burdening. You have probably heard these words, "... and we pray also for members of our extended parish family." While the names of 'extended parish family' members are printed in the weekly Sunday Parish Notes, we do not speak them aloud.

You may notice that the largest group of names we have in our weekly prayers under the Pastoral Care Corner are for the extended parish family. For roughly the last five and half years, the parish office has received prayer requests for individuals who are not members of our parish church and tried to keep track of them. Our collective hope is that prayers would meet the need and eventually rotate off. However, we have only added to the list with little review or editing. A spreadsheet has tried to keep track of specific requests, when they were received, the reason(s) for prayer, and who made the request. Yet that list has grown long and is somewhat unwieldy now.

An effort is underway to reconcile names in the printed prayers against this spreadsheet. Where names are printed but not accounted for in the spreadsheet, those names are being removed. Where names and their related information do not coincide with a printed name in the bulletin, those entries are being stricken. This is an effort to wean down the prayer list and the spreadsheet.

We are called to prayer. Please understand this administrative effort is not meant to deter or restrict prayer, but rather is to ensure we understand for whom we pray, how, why, and yes, for how long. Should you realize a name you added is no longer present, it can be re-added. If you see a name that no longer needs collective prayer, please help us in this work. Your attention will help us all in our ministry to pray for one another and others.

Blessings & Peace, David+



IMMANUEL MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP

Ahoy, shipmates. The date of this year's Annual Immanuel Men's

Group's rock fishing expedition is Friday, May 6th. As in the past, our fishing boat(s) will be departing that morning at sunup from Deale, Maryland (about one hour from DC/Alexandria). Also as in the past, we'll be gathering the evening before (Thursday, May 5th) at the Herrington Harbour Inn (located nearby the boat launch site) for our traditional "manly meal" and a good night's sleep. For those planning to car pool, we generally leave the Zabriskie parking lot at about 5:15 p.m. on Thursday and arrive at the Inn well before 7:00 p.m. You should all be back in Alexandria by 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Please let Doug John know by return e mail by Friday, April 15th whether you plan to join us. The shared cost per man for last year's fishing trip was approximately \$180.00 (does not include the rooms at the Inn, which should be about \$75 per man). Scholarship funds are available. Over the years, I think upwards of 100 "Gentlemen of Immanuel" have made the trip at least once. We would particularly encourage those of you who may be new or who, for whatever reason, have not joined us in the past to think about signing on this year. No experience or particular skill necessary. It is a great way to get to know one another better – and it requires only one evening and one day out of your schedule. It is also possible we may actually catch some fish (we got a boatload last year). If you have questions at this point, you can contact me by e-mail (djohn@jhenergy.com), phone or in person at Church. My home phone number is 703-751-9238 and my cell is 202-412-2138.

Doug John

PLEDGE UPDATE: As of March 9, thanks to 181 families or individuals of Immanuel, our pledge total for 2016 is \$547,500. We have almost reached our pledge total for 2015, which was \$549,000. The Vestry has budgeted for a reasonable, and we believe achievable, goal for 2016 of \$575,000. If you have not yet pledged, or, if you are new among us, please consider making a pledge to help us close this small gap. Pledge cards are available in both chapels, or you may pledge online at icoh.net.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRIEST

ASSOCIATE Immanuel welcomes another Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke, Associate Dean of Chapel and Associate Professor of Homiletics at Virginia Theological Seminary, is our newest Priest Associate. Her full bio may be found at vts.edu, under the faculty listing, and we will also print a short bio soon. Welcome!

OUTREACH TO INTERNATIONAL ANGLICANS

Living in the shadow of our nation's Capital, we are surrounded by diplomats from around the world. Immanuel, in conjunction with the Center for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Seminary, is going to reach out to some of these diplomats, particularly Anglicans, to see whether they might be searching for a church home during their time here. Come to an exploratory meeting where we will brainstorm the ways in which we can begin this outreach. We will meet on Thursday April 21st, at 7:30 PM, in the Fairchild Room. The input of our State Department and Foreign Services folks is particularly needed and welcomed!



GOOD FRIDAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Ever since I was a child, my parents included me in the story of Good Friday. I wasn't bombarded with gruesome images or denied from asking questions but allowed to join them and share in their journey through Holy Week. In time my family and my congregation helped me to see that the culmination of Easter on Sunday is a celebration of great joy that is preceded by death. Not just any death, but a very ugly and seemingly senseless death of an innocent person.

This is undeniably a difficult and intimidating subject to approach with our children, but as one of the most important foundations of our faith, the crucifixion on Good Friday is something we should make understandable for them. The Crucifixion is a topic our children should know well and not hear about only on Good Friday, but this day was set apart to serve as an opportunity for remembrance.

Therefore, this coming Good Friday all children are warmly invited to a join us for a worship service intended especially for them and their families. Offered at 6:00 p.m. in Immanuel Chapel, this will be an interactive service that will include a children's homily incorporating the Stations of the Cross. Please, feel free to bring a friend and join us. We hope to see you there.

John Hogg

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



SENIOR MINISTRY EVENT:

The Senior Ministry invites all seniors and their caregivers to Dinner and a Movie at Immanuel on Sunday, April 10th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall. We will enjoy a potluck and watch a Frontline special about Atul Gawande's book, "Being Mortal." The film highlights the stories of several individuals who experience the physiological effects of aging and struggle to maintain their autonomy and connections to their community. It also tells the stories of the caregivers who walked this road with them.

We will provide lasagna and refreshments, and ask attendees to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Please RSVP to Jennifer at jaddington@icoh.net by 4/5/16 and let her know what type of dish you will bring.



Spring Retreat
Theme: **The Invitation of Easter**
April 29-May 1
Leader: Nina Frost
Holy Cross Abbey

“How far are you prepared to wake up? How far are you available to the possibility? The truth is that the gospel promise of new life is available to us insofar as we are willing to enter our own passion story. The season of Lent and Easter is a time when God’s Passion for us and our passion for God collide and make something new.”

The Rev. Alan Jones, *A Passion for Pilgrimage*

Each year, the powerful season of Easter moves from the loss and despair of Good Friday to a place of resurrection and surprise. How are we asked to walk the same journey in our own lives? How are our hearts urged toward conversions that are rooted in the personal, practical concerns we face daily?

The extended Easter season invites us to engage its revelations year-round. This retreat will explore some surprising, ongoing ways the Biblical stories surrounding Easter are also road maps to our own spiritual growth and renewal.

As always, this retreat will be a restorative time apart that will blend rest, presentations, group time, free time, silence, monastic services, and ample materials for reflection.

Nina H. Frost, a vocational counselor and spiritual director in private practice in New York City and Virginia, will direct this retreat. A frequent speaker at churches, she also designs retreats and workshops that help people integrate Christian spirituality with the ongoing challenges and invitations of their lives. She was formerly the head of Adult Education at Marble Collegiate Church in New York. She has a M.A. in Spiritual Direction from the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, and is a co-author of the book *Soul Mapping: An Imaginative Way to Self-Discovery*. She is also a founding partner of www.creativecontemplatives.com, a company offering retreats and other spiritual formation resources.

The retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, April 29, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal on Sunday, May 1. Participants needing a ride to the Abbey may contact the retreat carpooling coordinator, Carla Murray, at tigmurray08@gmail.com or 703-751-9241.

The \$350.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals. Two scholarships given in memory of Charles Willis are available; please contact the Rector for scholarship assistance.

Registration is limited to 15 persons; please reserve your space using the form in the *Almond Tree*. If you have questions about retreat logistics, please contact Mary Ann Rehnke, mrehnke@verizon.net or 703-836-7142.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Spring Retreat
Holy Cross Abbey Retreat House
April 29-May 1, 2016**

1. First person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

2. Second person registering for retreat

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evening Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Number of registrants _____ x \$350 = _____ Total registration fee

Please make check payable to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill and label it Spring Retreat. Return this form and your check to the Immanuel Church office, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Please put Spring retreat on the envelope.

If you need to cancel your registration and there is no one on the waiting list who can take your place, Holy Cross Abbey retains the \$50.00 per room deposit. All but \$50.00 of your registration fee would be returned to you. If there is someone on the waiting list to take your place, your total registration fee will be returned to you.

HOLY WEEK 2016 at Immanuel

Holy Week is the conclusion of the Lenten season, as we relive in Scripture, liturgy and Sacrament the last days of our Lord's life.

PALM SUNDAY, March 20, at 8 and 10:30 AM, recalls two events. First is Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, in which he rode on a donkey while the people spread branches and garments on the road before him proclaiming "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26). We remember this event by carrying palms, and celebrating the Kingship of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate Christ's Messianic entrance into Jerusalem, we remember that Mary, the mother of Jesus, rode a lowly donkey as she entered Bethlehem for Christ's birth. So too, Christ the Messiah humbled himself to ride a donkey through the gates of Jerusalem. Immanuel's friendly donkey will lead us in procession at 10:15 AM, beginning from Zabriskie Chapel and meeting those already gathered near the Seminary Post Office. Palm Sunday is also "the Sunday of the Passion," and encompasses the events of the week that follow -- especially the day of the Crucifixion. On this day the story of the passion of Christ is traditionally read in parts.

Monday, March 21 Holy Eucharist, 7:30 PM--Zabriskie Chapel

Tuesday, March 22 Holy Eucharist, 7:30 PM--Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday, March 23, Holy Eucharist, 6:30PM--Zabriskie Chapel

Tenebrae, 7:30 PM A distinguishing characteristic of this service is the series of readings from Lamentations which appear early in the service. Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles set on a special, triangular stand. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm. But it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph.

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:30 PM. "Maundy" is an Old English derivation of the Latin *Mandatum*, meaning "a command," referring to Jesus' words at the Last Supper, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 14:34). The Maundy Thursday liturgy recalls the Last Supper, focusing particularly on the institution of the Holy Eucharist and footwashing. As Christ humbly washed the feet of his disciples, so too will Immanuel clergy wash the feet of parishioners. Parishioners will then turn to wash the feet of other worshippers. All will be invited to participate in the footwashing, but it will be up to each to decide their level of participation. At the end of this service, the Altar is stripped, and the extra Sacrament which has been consecrated for the Good Friday liturgy is placed on a special Altar of Repose where it remains until it is consumed at the Good Friday service. The Altar of Repose symbolizes the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony before his arrest. A "watch" begins immediately following the service, at the Altar of Repose.

PRAYER WATCH: The Prayer Watch will begin on Maundy Thursday, March 24, at 9 p.m. in the Oratory, the small side Chapel in Immanuel Chapel, following the traditional Maundy Thursday service. The watch will continue until Friday, March 25 at Noon., prior to the first 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 of both Chapels. Questions? Please call the office at 703.370.6555.

Good Friday, March 25

12 Noon Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM A Good Friday service geared especially towards children

7:30 PM The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

Good Friday is designated a "Fast" in the Prayer Book, and "observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial." It is the day of the Crucifixion, the darkest and most somber of all days in the liturgical year. The Gospel recounts the death of Christ. The service ends with worshippers departing in reverent silence, but awaiting the Resurrection.

Saturday, March 26—The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 PM (joining with the Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria)

Celebrated after sunset on the night before Easter, this service dates back to the first and second centuries of the early Christian Church. Perhaps more than in other service we revert to our Jewish roots, in that Easter begins at sunset. We gather outdoors, in the old Chapel Memorial Garden, to build the New Fire of Easter, and then process into a darkened church. By candlelight we hear Scripture lessons reminding us of the history of Salvation. We celebrate a Baptism, and Easter begins, with the first Eucharist of Easter. While not intended to replace the services on Easter Day, this most ancient liturgy is meant to enhance our Easter experience and make it richer and more meaningful. A festive reception will follow. All are invited to bring a bell to ring at the announcement of the Lord's Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, March 27, The Feast of the Resurrection

7:30 AM--Holy Eucharist--Zabriskie Chapel

9:15 & 11:15 AM—Festival Holy Eucharists

with choir, brass quintet and festival processions

Easter is the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection and the life of the risen Christ, which we are called to carry into the world. It is the highest feast day of the Christian year, and the Easter morning services are bright and triumphant. Christ our Savior is Risen! Alleluia!

A festive coffee hour will follow each service to celebrate and share.

And, there will be an **Easter egg hunt** for the children, rain or shine, following the 9:15 AM Eucharist.



EASTER DEDICATIONS



As Easter approaches you are invited to dedicate Easter flowers 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 March 21.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY!

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

Given by _____

In memory of _____

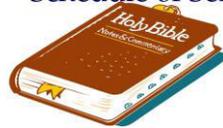
In thanksgiving for _____

Daytime phone number _____

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



March 13, the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

8:00 a.m., HEI, 10:30 a.m., HEII

March 20, Sunday of the Passion, 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—23:49

8:00 a.m., HEI; 10:30 a.m., HEII

March 27, Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:9-26; John 20:1-18

7:30 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII