



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 29, 2017

"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, April 9

7:45 a.m. Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist I, Zabriskie Chapel
Procession 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, April 10-11

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

Wednesday, April 12

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

Maundy Thursday, April 13

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, April 14

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

Saturday, April 15

8:45 a.m., Liturgy of the Day for Holy Saturday, Oratory Chapel
7:30 p.m., Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Immanuel Chapel,
followed by a reception in the Welcome Center
(See details on page 2)

Easter Sunday, April 16

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



PRAYER WATCH: The Prayer Watch will begin on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 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, April 14 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.



THE ANNUAL IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL PARISH RETREAT AT SHRINE MONT RETREAT CENTER IN ORKNEY SPRINGS, VA (about 2

hours away) will be Saturday, May 27 (noon) through Breakfast Monday, May 29, 2017. What better way to start your summer than with Immanuel friends in a beautiful and relaxing setting?! There will be time for fun, food, swimming, singing, relaxation, spiritual reflection, worship, hiking, yoga, porch entertaining, and spending time with clergy, family, and friends.

Cost: \$173 per adult, \$93 for children 8-12, \$40 for children 4-7, free for children 3 and under. There is also a ceiling on the overall rate for families over 4. For those wanting to come up Friday, the cost is \$55 per person (includes Saturday Breakfast). Please contact our rector, Randy Alexander, to discuss scholarship options – full or partial. We would like to collect money before the weekend so please bring checks, payable to "ICOH", with a notation saying "Shrine Mont" to the church office before the weekend. You can also register and pay with credit card by going to the Immanuel website www.ICOH.net and following the Shrine Mont link.

For more information or to register, contact Lisa Frye at lsfrye323@gmail.com or tel. 703-548-8591 (h) 571-214-4735 (c)

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.

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*

HOLY WEEK 2017 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, April 9, at 7:45 and 10:30 a.m., 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. 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, April 10, Holy Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.--Zabriskie Chapel

Tuesday, April 11, Holy Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.--Zabriskie Chapel

Wednesday, April 12, Holy Eucharist, 6:30 p.m.--Zabriskie Chapel

Followed by Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. 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, April 13, 7:30 p.m. "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, April 13, 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, April 14 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, April 14

12 Noon Stations of the Cross

6:00 p.m. A Good Friday service geared especially towards children

7:30 p.m. 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.

Holy Saturday, April 15

The Liturgy of the Day for Holy Saturday, 8:45 a.m., Oratory Chapel

The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 p.m.

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. Easter then 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, April 16, The Feast of the Resurrection

7:30 a.m.--Holy Eucharist--Zabriskie Chapel

**9:15 & 11:15 a.m.—Festival Holy Eucharists, Immanuel Chapel,
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 a.m. Eucharist.

ALIVE! MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY!: Between now and Wednesday, April 5th at 11:59 p.m., ALL Spring2ACTion donations to ALIVE! will be matched 100% up to \$15,000. ALIVE! needs everyone's support to receive this very important gift. Please consider taking one of the following actions:

Make a donation to ALIVE! through Spring2ACTion at spring2action.razoo.com/story/Alive-30

Support StepALIVE and the Child Development Center via the Spring2ACTion CDC donation site at spring2action.razoo.com/story/Rd568f

Thank you in advance for your support of this urgent request. If you have any questions please contact Nancy or Jim Wise at 703-642-8225; jrwise52@hotmail.com

UNITED THANK OFFERING: With the support and encouragement of the clergy and the Vestry, Immanuel will be participating in one of the oldest ministries of the Episcopal Church between Easter and Pentecost. The United Thank Offering (UTO) was founded by the forerunner of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the Women's Auxiliary to the Mission Board, in 1889. The rest has been history. Millions of dollars have been raised through "in-gatherings" over the past 100+ years and dispensed as grants both domestically and abroad. The symbol of the UTO is the iconic "blue box" or mite box that is the repository for your loose change, which, when combined with thousands of other similar gifts, becomes a powerful means of spreading the Good News. Contributions to the UTO are a daily or weekly discipline of sharing with others and giving thanks for the blessings we enjoy. They are not a response to a conventional fundraiser or an element of our stewardship campaign. There is no direct benefit to Immanuel by our participation. Please see Doug Henry, the UTO parish coordinator, after services during Eastertide to receive a blue box or answer any questions you might have. The Immanuel UTO In-Gathering will take place on Pentecost (4 June).

A NOTE FROM ASSOCIATE RECTOR DAVID CROSBY: I want to offer my Gratitude for your Grace during my recent hospitalization and recovery from total hip replacement surgery. Your notes, cards, calls, gifts and visits have been holy balm and lovely reminders of the goodness of this community. Most importantly, your thoughts and prayers have carried me and guided me through the approach to surgery, and the rehabilitation afterward. I acknowledge and give thanks especially for those prayers because I know that prayer is powerful, and that your prayers, and others, work. Thank you! No one is more amazed by the success of this surgery and the speed of my rehabilitation. I grow stronger and more able with each passing day. I give endless thanks for the divine spark within us to inquire and explore how life might be changed and broadened. My thanks know no bounds for your concern, kindness, care and encouragement. I am grateful for your love and grace. ~ David+



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 April 10.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY!

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

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Daytime phone number _____

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lectionary Readings and
Schedule of Services



April 2, The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
7:45 a.m., HEI, 9:00 a.m., Children's Eucharist, 11:15 a.m., HEII

April 9, Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Psalms: Matthew 21:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
The Liturgy of the Word: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66
7:45 a.m., HEI; 10:30 a.m., HEII

April 16, Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18
7:30 a.m., HEI, 9:15 a.m., HEII, 11:15 a.m., HEII