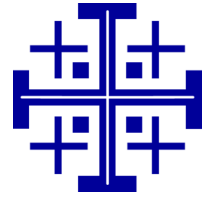




Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Episcopal/Anglican
Alexandria, Virginia



THANKSGIVING

November 26, 2025



THANKSGIVING EVE
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 6:30 p.m.

Prelude: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Robin Milford

Opening Hymn 290: “Come ye thankful people, come”

St. George’s Windsor

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

p. 323

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Gloria S280 (found in the front of The Hymnal 1982)

Robert Powell

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord
Response: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 100 *Jubilate Deo*

- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn 291: "We plow the fields and scatter"

from The Hymnal 1982

Wir pflugen

The Holy Gospel: John 6:25-35

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

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

Clergy and People: *Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.*

The Peace

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

People: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Announcements

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 at right.

Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Organ Solo: “ Now Thank We All Our God ”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Doxology: Hymn 380 (verse 3)

found in The Hymnal 1982

Old 100th

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

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.*

S 130 Sanctus (*found in the front of The Hymnal 1982*)

Franz Peter Schubert

*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 Lord’s Prayer

p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.*

S164 Agnus Dei (*found in the front of The Hymnal 1982*)

Franz Peter Schubert

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

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Organ Solo: Andantino (*from "Dix Pièces en style libre, Op. 21"*)

Charles Arnould Tournemire

Communion Hymn 705: "As those of old their first fruits brought"

Forest Green

Sung, if needed

Hymn 490: "I want to walk as a child of the light"

Houston

Post Communion Prayer

p. 366

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father,
send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory,
now and for ever.
Amen.*

Closing Hymn 397: "Now thank we all our God" *found in The Hymnal 1982*

Nun danket alle Gott

The Dismissal

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Now thank we all our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*All are invited to join Father Randy in the Parish Hall as we wish the Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs a **happy birthday** over cake (or pie) and decaf coffee.*

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

Reader/Intercessor: Kathryn Tatko
Usher: Aleta Y. Powell
Musician: Ms. Carol Sikkelee
Flower Guild: Candy Levin
Vestry Greeter/Counter: Amy Thomas
Celebrant: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs



UPCOMING SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

	8:00 a.m.	<i>Gaudete Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite I and Healing Prayers</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
December 14	10:00 a.m.	<i>Gaudete Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite II and Healing Prayers</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	8:00 a.m.	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent with Holy Eucharist Rite I</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
December 21	10:00 a.m.	<i>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist Rite II</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	<i>Blue Christmas Prayer Service</i>	Zabriskie Parish Hall
	4:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Full Choir, and Brass</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Full Choir, and Brass</i>	
December 24	8:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Choral Ensemble, and Brass</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	9:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass</i>	
December 25	11:00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Organ and Carols</i>	Zabriskie Chapel
	8:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
December 29	10:30 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel
	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	
January 4, 2026	10:30 a.m.	Youth-led Sunday with Holy Eucharist Rite II	Zabriskie Chapel
	8:00 a.m.	Epiphany Sunday (transferred) with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
January 11, 2026	10:30 a.m.	<i>Children's Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by Festive Reception in the Welcome Center</i>	Immanuel Chapel

CHRISTMAS GREENS, FLOWERS and MUSIC DEDICATIONS

This Christmas season you are invited to make a donation to help offset the cost of our Christmas greens and flowers, and/or the special music at our Christmas Eucharists. To make a memorial or thanksgiving donation for a loved one, or to make a thanksgiving dedication for some blessing, please complete and send this form along with your check to the Parish Office or place it in the alms box in the narthex. Names will be printed in our Christmas bulletins for all donations received **by noon** on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**. Please print all names very clearly, or email names to DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.



GREENS/FLOWERS: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: () _____

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:



CHRISTMAS MUSIC: \$ _____

Given by:

Phone Number: () _____

In Thanksgiving for:

In Memory of:

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
3606 Seminary Road/ Alexandria, VA 22304-5200
ICOH.net DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET



Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 2nd @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer, Wednesday December 3rd, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of John*” Thursday, December 4th

@10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline, Friday December 5th @ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with *The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs*

Join Sarah for fellowship this **Wednesday, December 3rd** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. **All are welcome!**



DECEMBER 6TH: HELP NEEDED WITH CHRISTMAS FAMILIES BOOKS: Volunteers of *all ages needed!*

Thanks to a trip to the **Green Valley Book Fair** in Mt. Crawford, VA, we have **more than 900 new books for our 2025 Christmas families**. On **Saturday, December 6th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.**, we will be matching books to each child and teen (two books apiece). We also have great basic cookbooks for our parents. Any amount of time you can spare is appreciated.

We need folks to:

Peel off price tags, a tedious but necessary job and we have handy scrapers to help. You can sit to do this.

Bring small to medium boxes, like those Amazon boxes, from home to organize books for the larger families so the boxes are easier to wrap. Peel off labels, if you can. Or bring them to us at church services: Laura Snow at the 8 a.m. and Connie Kurz at the 10 a.m.

☞ Chose appropriate books for each child based on the information provided by the parents/social workers and by age/grade and stated interests.

☞ Enjoy that famous Immanuel fellowship, breakfast pastries and a light lunch.

☞ Help box up and inventory the remaining books, so we are set for 2026.

Please contact Connie Kurz (cgkurz@aol.com) or Laura Snow (laurabsnow@verizon.net) if you, a family member, a student needing community service hours or a friend/neighbor would like to help. Many hands make light work and get us all in the holiday spirit!

COMING THIS WINTER: CONFIRMATION PREP FOR AGES 13+

Prep Meeting: Sunday, December 7 @ 11:00 a.m., The Fairchild Room

Do you have a teen - or would *you* like to learn more about your faith and deepen participation in the life of the church? The [Sacrament of Confirmation](#) offers us the opportunity to renew the promises made for us at baptism and to seek God's strength as we continue to keep those baptismal promises in our lives. Confirmation happens as part of the Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia's visit, which will occur at Immanuel on **March 15, 2026**.

If you or your teen is interested in exploring this sacrament, we will have an initial meeting with parents and youth on **Sunday, December 7** immediately following the 10am service. We'll talk about confirmation and work out a realistic schedule for required preparation, worship attendance and service projects this winter. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Mother Sarah directly at sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net.



SIGN-UP TO SERVE: NOVEMBER - JANUARY 2026

IT'S EASY AND ONLINE

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through January 2026* ONLINE by visiting the landing page of our website at [ICOH.net](#) and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at left. If you're a student planning to spend occasional weekends home, feel free to **sign-up for only a Sunday or two**. Training for all lay ministries available upon request. **THANK YOU for your participation!**



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP: DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship will visit the [National Gallery of Art](#) December 12th for a guided tour of *The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art*. This exhibit is drawn exclusively from the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia and is the largest exhibit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art ever shown in North America. Connecting 250 nations across 65,000 years, these works "reveal the rich, living history of creativity behind the world's longest continuous culture."

Our van will leave from Zabriskie Chapel's parking lot at 10:00am, heading to the East Wing. After lunch on your own in the Gallery's café and a chance to visit your own favorite art work at the Gallery, we will assemble for the 50-minute tour at 1:00pm. We should return to the Parish Hall no later than 3:00pm. The co-pay for the van is \$20. (No cost for the exhibit.) RSVP to Karen Besser at karen.besser@gmail.com.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY TEA AND CAROL SING

Join us on Tuesday, December 16 in the Parish Hall for a Festive Holiday tea and plenteous goodies at 2pm. Afterwards, we will adjourn to the chapel for a carol sing. Pianist extraordinaire and our own Immanuel Choir bass section leader Daryl Ott will be taking your requests, together with Rick Glassco on the chimes, so think ahead and be ready to call out all your favorite carols. You know...those songs that make the season bright!

Please RSVP to Karen Besser, so that we know how many cookies, cucumber sandwiches and festive candies to have on hand.

THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE-ALEXANDRIA on December 17 at noon in the Fillmore room. Please join us for luncheon and conversation. RSVP to Mother Susan (sparsons@icoh.net) if you are not a resident of Goodwin House, and to Susan Kernan (skernan40@aol.com) if you are a resident.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES 2025 -- November Update

A good start but still a ways to go

This table shows the families referred to from Community and Human Services, but there are still more to come from DCHS and the Lazarus Ministry (Episcopal Region IV):

	Families	Parents	Children	All people
On our list from DCHS so far (more to come)	83	91	197	288
Signed up for	22	22	44	66
Remaining (more to come)	61	69	153	222

So we hope for many more sign-ups on November 30 and December 7, before or after each service and in the Zabriskie Narthex in between to provide nice lasting gifts that lift the spirit and support learning. Large families are divided; you can sign up for part of a family or perhaps team up with another parishioner to take a whole large family.

It is a great experience for children to help select gifts for their less fortunate peers.

Reminder to all tutors, teachers, bibliophiles of all ages, and teens needing community service hours: **On Saturday, December 6th, 9 am to 2 pm** in the parish hall, we will be **matching books to each child and teen** (two books apiece). We also have great basic cookbooks for our parents. Any amount of time you can spare is appreciated. Connie Kurz and Laura Snow

Used bicycles in any shape are also welcome. You can take them directly to Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative (<https://velocitycoop.org/donate-stuff/>), 2111 Mt Vernon Avenue, Tuesday. – Sat. 10 am – 4 pm or bring to church any time.

There is a space crunch at Human Services this year since staff have been temporarily relocated from City Hall, which is being renovated, to Mark Center. So we must skip the Boutique this year. Please donate used clothing and toys to your favorite nonprofit from which they will find a new home. The Boutique will be back next year.

Dagobert Soergel <<mailto:ds@dsoergel.com>> Linda Serabian <serabian@somaarchitects.com>
 Dorothy Kellogg <<mailto:djaskellogg@gmail.com>> Connie Kurz <<mailto:cgkurz@aol.com>>
 Laura Snow <laurabsnow@verizon.net>



St. Nicholas Exhibit Tour for children ages 1-18: December 14th after the 10am Eucharist. Get on the Immanuel Family Ministries email list to receive email updates on all our offerings for children. Email Rev. Sarah at sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net to be included!



Our Commitment Sunday for our **Every Member Pledge Campaign** was last Sunday, and we are off to a robust start in gathering pledges for next year.

If you have not yet made your pledge please do so as soon as possible. You may return the pledge card that was mailed to you, or you may pledge by scanning the QR code at right, or pledge through [our website](#), by clicking the "Pledge Here" button.



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)	Assistant 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. *First Sunday in October, November & December 2025*
 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

3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE