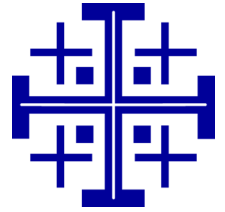




Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Episcopal/Anglican
Alexandria, Virginia



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 5, 2025

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00 a.m.
HONORING St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology

Page numbers refer to [The Book of Common Prayer](#) and [Book of Occasional Services](#).

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

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

or

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

p. 324

The Collect of the Day and Collect for Saint Francis Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord: Grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

The First Lesson: Genesis 1:20–22a, 24–26a, 28, 31a

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind.” God blessed them.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 104:10–25 *Benedic, anima mea*

10. You, LORD God, send the springs into the valleys; *
they flow between the mountains.
11. All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
12. Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.
13. You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.
14. You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve humankind;
15. That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,
16. Oil to make a cheerful countenance, *
and bread to strengthen the heart.
17. The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which God planted,
18. In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the stork makes a dwelling.
19. The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
20. You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
21. You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

22. The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.
23. The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.
24. People go forth to their work *
and to their labor until the evening.
25. O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

The Epistle: Acts 4: 32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Response: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, God, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Creator; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal God. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

The Nicene Creed

p. 326

The Prayers of the People:

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 331

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

The Peace

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

People: *And with thy spirit.*

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 below. **Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.***



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Clergy: All things come of thee, O Lord;
People: *and of thine own, have we given thee.*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

p. 340

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And with thy spirit.*
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant and People

Sanctus and Benedictus

p. 334

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The Lord's Prayer

p. 336

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *have mercy upon us.*
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *have mercy upon us.*
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *grant us thy peace.*

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.

Post Communion Prayer

p. 339

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.
Amen.*

The Blessing

The Dismissal

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

<i>Reader/Intercessor:</i>	Diana Walker
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Gildersleeve
<i>Usher:</i>	Linda Donahue
<i>Flower Guild:</i>	Karen Besser, Bryce Doorley, Grayson Yates
<i>Vestry Greeter/Counter:</i>	Brian Rush
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Darrell Wilson, Leah Wilson
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch is OPEN: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our 32nd Pumpkin Patch is now open, so we need volunteers now more than ever: pumpkin unloaders and sellers, soup makers, bakers, knitters, apple crisp makers -- there's a job for everyone! Dorothy Kellogg has plastic soup containers available in Parish Hall Kitchen and Immanuel Chapel Parlor – please help us fill the church Freezers with delicious soups by opening day. If you can make even one batch of soup, please email Dorothy: djaskellogg@gmail.com.

We are still looking for an Apple Crisp Leader. If you feel called to this sweet ministry or think you might – but have questions on how it works, please contact Julie Bruns directly: drbruns@verizon.net.

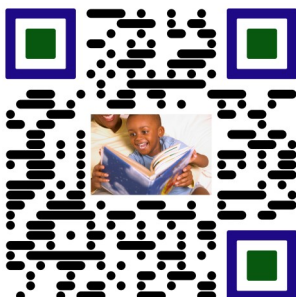
Let us follow Jesus's greatest commandment: to love our neighbors as ourselves. Outreach is a force multiplier of good works – it's putting faith in daily action – it's the money we contribute to others, it's the hours of volunteer service, and the joy we can bring to our community. Since 2000, your Immanuel Pumpkin Patch work has raised \$1,388,000 for Outreach charities such as ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, Culmore Clinic, Five Talents, Haiti Micah Project, Christ Church Refugee Ministry, and other organizations that feed people, aid the homeless, and bring hope. Please help!

Please **sign up for sales shifts at Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch 2025** by scanning the QR code at right. See you at the Patch!



HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ! BECOME A BOOK BUDDY!

Do you or someone you know have an hour a week to help a child learn to read? **The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC)** needs volunteer reading tutors in Alexandria's public elementary schools, with the most openings at Ferdinand Day, Patrick Henry, and John Adams schools. Tutors work one-on-one with a kindergarten, first, or second grade student in 35-minute sessions, once or twice a week, during the school day, October through May. You do not need to be a teacher to do this - ATC provides training, materials and support - and you will make a huge difference for a child. It is important, though, to honor the schedule as your Book Buddy will look forward to seeing you.



Contact ATC's Alexa Allmann (aallmann@alexandriatutors.org) or visit alexandriatutors.org to learn more. To register, simply scan the QR code at left.

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

October 5, 2025

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST we welcome you
to Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill!**

Immanuel is an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, and is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Immanuel was founded by the Virginia Theological Seminary. We are one parish that worships in two locations: the Zabriskie Chapel (3606 Seminary Road), and Immanuel Chapel (3737 Seminary Road) on the seminary grounds. Immanuel Chapel offers a fully-staffed nursery for our infant and toddler parishioners.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card — located in the pews or display stands at the entrances of the chapels. Please give your card to an usher or place in the collection plate. Thank you.

For the latest information on our online worship service and to view a video of our most recent service, please visit our website (www.icoh.net).

PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS: Ann MacNamara, Aster, Jim, Nancy, Spencer, and Zuzanna Wise, Carolyn Ferguson, Catherine Sinclair, Chris von Schoening, Craig Jackson, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, David Phillips, Debbie Hewson, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Gordon Johnson, Jane, John Richards, Joseph, Kenny, Marcus, Mary Jane Ruhl, Nancy Bishop, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, Rollin Huntington, Susan Montague, Tom and Martha Shimkin, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Andrew Davis, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Barbara Kellner, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Cicely, Donna Becker, George Rustigian, Gerry, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackson Sirhal, Jean Couban, Jean Williams, Jill Lane, Jodi Williams, Joe Micelli, José Maria, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, Marie, Mary Horner, Marty Childs, Mary Muniz, McQuade Milligan, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, Tony, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Meggan Engelke-Ros, Betsy Huffman, Caroline Johnson, Nancy Lyons, Heather Schnedl, Susan Montague, Randy Kell, Diana Walker, Charlotte Barnes, Doug Onley, Brooke Roberts, Eddie Bouynton, Emily Friday, Brian Ply, Grace Wensing, and Alouette Horne.

Pray for those serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, Scott, and Philip Pretzinger.

ALIVE! WALK During PRAY & PLAY *Today* After 10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Today after our 10a.m. Eucharist, we invite all youth to gather to pray and play as we head out into creation for our fundraising **ALIVE!** walk. We hope you will join us and support **ALIVE!** by donating. May our neighbors experiencing food insecurity and housing instability know God's love for them!



TODAY @ 12 NOON: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Each October, in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi who saw God's love reflected in nature and wildlife, we bless those non-human members of our family. We ask you, your family, and your cherished pets to participate in our annual **Blessing of the Animals** in the backyard of Zabriskie Chapel, next to the Memorial Garden. If your pet is no longer with us, feel free to bring a photo or stuffed animal to represent them: God's blessing can find them!

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Morning Prayer Tuesday, October 7th @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II, Wednesday, October 8th, Zabriskie Chapel

Quiet Prayer, Wednesday October 8th, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

Weekly Bible Study: "*The Gospel of John*" Thursday, October 9th
@10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Compline, Friday October 10th@ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

WEEKLY QUIET PRAYER AT IMMANUEL AND THE SEMINARY, WEDNESDAYS 5:15 - 6:00 P.M.

In recent penitential seasons (Lent and Advent, 2024, and Lent 2025) clergy and congregational members of Immanuel have shared silent prayer time together on a weekday evening, with ordinands and faculty members from the Seminary, and (increasingly) with some members of other local churches. At a time of much need for prayer in our churches and in the world, especially in our ongoing prayers for world peace, we are now responding to several requests to make this practice a weekly option for our parish(es) and the Seminary. With our first season ending on Wednesday December 17, we **gather in the Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel, from 5:15-6:00pm each Wednesday evening**. Please do consider joining us, either every week or when you have the time. This time of prayer can be used in many different and profitable ways; but the core theme is that, together, we wait on God's grace and respond to his calling. By coming together we offer, as Christ promised, more than the sum of our parts.

The Rev. Randy Alexander, the Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs, and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley



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

THIS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH : Join Sarah for fellowship this **Wednesday, October 8th** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. All are welcome!



Forum Hour: "*A Dialog on the Practicalities of Prayer*"

LED BY THE REV. DR. FRANK WADE AND THE REV. DR. SARAH COAKLEY

Sunday, October 12th @ 11:30 A.M, The Welcome Center

Join Frank and Sarah over coffee and refreshments in The Welcome Center for an open discussion to aid and encourage those setting out on the regular practice of prayer. This topic is in connection with the new 'Quiet Prayer' sessions that Rev. Sarah leads each Wednesday from 5.15-6pm in the Oratory Chapel. All are welcome.

IT'S AUTUMN AND SENIOR MINISTRY/FELLOWSHIP HAS PLANS. PLAN TO JOIN US!

OCTOBER: THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT GOODWIN HOUSE-ALEXANDRIA at noon on October 15 (same RSVP details as above).

FOURTH TUESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH. The professional hockey season begins in October and if you don't know the difference between a snipe and a dangle, we're not gonna put you in the penalty box! Instead, come on Tuesday, October 28 and hear parishioner **Agnes Soos**, who will help us learn how to follow that fast puck around the ice and maybe become a fan for life. Bring your own sandwich and we will provide dessert and drinks. There is no reservation required and no cost to this event.

SPECIAL ADVANCE NOTICE—CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY WITH A TOUR OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY! On Thursday afternoon, November 13, we will travel to Annapolis to tour the Naval Academy. We will get around in nifty little electric cars, so distance and weather are no object. Van co-pay is \$20 and the tour price is \$35. Specific timing details will follow shortly but if you want to go, mark your calendar now and **RSVP to Karen Besser no later than Monday, October 13, as we need to provide names/addresses of all participants to the Academy in advance.** This event is strictly limited to 15 people.



Monthly Saturday Breakfast Bible Study: **“GOD’S PROMISES”** **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th @ 8:00 AM, Held Online via Microsoft Teams**

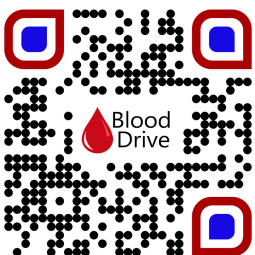
Join Immanuel's monthly Saturday morning Breakfast Bible Study **Saturday, September 20th** online via *Microsoft Teams* (find this bulletin on our website under the “Worship” tab, then click on the link below) beginning at 8 a.m. Our new theme for 2025 is ***God's Promises***. This month we will read **2 Corinthians 1:17-22** ***“For in him [Jesus Christ] every one of God's promises is a “Yes.”*** using the African Model of Reflection. For more information, please visit [our webpage “Breakfast Bible Study”](#), or contact Chrissie Crosby at cmcfaddencrosby@gmail.com.

[Join MSTeams Saturday Breakfast Bible Study Meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 959 5450 6553 / Passcode: 027913



IMMANUEL’S 4TH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE—SIGN UP NOW FOR NOVEMBER 2!

We are partnering with Inova Hospital for the fourth time to host a blood drive on **Sunday, November 2, from noon to 4pm in the Zabriskie parking lot**. The link to sign up is now LIVE! Scan the QR code at left to pick a time, or you can reach out to Katherine Maas at katherinemaas@gmail.com. Blood drives are a meaningful way to help our community—one in seven people entering the hospital need blood and a single car accident



victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood. The blood from our drive will likely be used within 48 hours after it ends. Please see recently updated eligibility guidance on Inova's site inovablood.org/donate-blood/eligibility/. If you are considering donating blood for the first time, Inova has some helpful information at inovablood.org/donate-blood/prepare-for-your-donation/first-time-donors/.

If you are not eligible to donate, you can still help at the registration table—even an hour would help! Please contact Katherine with any questions or to express interest in volunteering at the registration table. Thank you!

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
Bella Jung	Nursery Director
Miguelina “Mimi” Guzmann	Nursery 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