



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Episcopal/Anglican Alexandria, Virginia



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00 a.m.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

p. 323

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

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

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

Kyrie eleison

p. 324

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us. or Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 122 *Laetatus sum*

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Epistle: Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will

be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise be to thee. O Christ*

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

The Nicene Creed

p. 326

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin and Absolution

*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 at right. Thank you for your gift to Immanuel.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Clergy: All things come of thee, O Lord; p. 343
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.*

Sanctus and Benedictus

p. 334

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.*

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>	Chip Coakley
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Gildersleeve
<i>Usher:</i>	Pierre Shostal
<i>Flower Guild:</i>	Candy Levin
<i>Vestry Greeter/Counter:</i>	Brian Rush
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Connie Kurz
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. Susan D. Parsons

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



IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

November 30, 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, 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, Hugh Campbell, Jane, the Jim and Lisa Clausen Family, John Richards, Joseph, Kenny, Marcus Rarick, Mary Jane Ruhl, Nancy Bishop, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, Rollin Huntington, Susan Montague, Thom Hussey, Tom and Martha Shimkin, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Andrew Davis, Ann Langdon Days, Ann Woodward, Barbara Kellner, Barbara Sagan, Becky Smith, Betsy Fox Berry, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Caleb Lusk, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Cicely, Donna Becker, George Rustigian, Gerry, the Howerton Family, Hudson Milligan, Jack Allen, Jackson Sirhal, Jean Couban, Jodi Wilson, Joe Micelli, the Rev. John Hogg, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Judi Rhodes, Leea Gorman, Lilly Pinner, Louise Jackson, Lysbeth, Marcia Richardson, Margie Lidoff, Marie, Mary Horner, Mary Muniz, Marty Childs, McQuade Milligan, Melvyn and Stacy, Michael, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rosemary Wensing, Russ, Ryan Willis, Sofia, Soundary Dilan, Stacey, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, Thomas Henry, Tim Williams, Tony, Val, Wesley Johnson, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Lani Brown, Robert Huffman, John Roberts Jr., Paul Hoversten, Tim Lawhorn, Max Miller, Adam Donahue, Lisa Frye, Edna Roberts, Lisa Clausen, Shannon Gehrs, Ellen Gehrs, Auggie Koch, Preston Brown O'Neil, and Martha Manson.

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

TODAY: Advent Wreath Making and Pizza Lunch

11:30a.m. in the Zabriskie Parish Hall to make an Advent wreath and enjoy a pizza lunch.



Our **Wednesday Quiet Prayer** sessions provide a wonderful opportunity to enter into the call of Advent, for quiet prayer and preparation, which is deeply counter-cultural in this season which can be so dominated by consumerism. Simply join us in the Oratory (the side chapel at Immanuel Chapel) from 5:15 p.m. until 6p.m.

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 LawhornSexton
 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 ThomasSenior Warden
 Caroline Bergmark Junior Warden: Buildings and Grounds, Registrar
 Peter KentJunior 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