



Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Episcopal/Anglican Alexandria, Virginia



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

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

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

Greeting and Lighting of The Advent Wreath

The first three candles we lit were for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle - the candle of **love**. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, and that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God loves us.

Let us pray,

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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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

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Kyrie eleison

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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

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 80:1-7 *Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke
Response: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord
Response: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin and Absolution

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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; *and of thine own have we given thee.* p. 343

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

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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

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Celebrant *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:*
and People *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

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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

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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.*

*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

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After Communion, the Celebrant says

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 Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Clergy: Let us go forth in love, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

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SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

<i>Reader/Intercessor:</i>	Amy Thomas
<i>Advent Wreath Lighter and Prayer Leader:</i>	Linda Donahue
<i>Usher:</i>	Linda Donahue
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Diana Walker
<i>Flower Guild:</i>	The Immanuel Flower Guild
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Susan Gildersleeve
<i>Vestry Greeter and Counter:</i>	Amy Thomas
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs

**Join with fellow Immanuelites in Richmond
for the Virginia Interfaith Center "*Day for All People*"
January 15, 2025**

The Day for All People is the annual "lobby day" for the Interfaith Center, and Immanuel has long sent a sizable group to meet with our state representatives to learn about the legislative process and support legislation that advances issues of concern to a wide range of faith communities. We will once again rent a motor coach that we will share with folks coming from other Alexandria congregations. The Virginia Interfaith Center will be focusing its interaction with the General Assembly in part on two issues that the Vestry recently adopted as Immanuel policy:

- (1) legislation to make it easier for churches to build affordable housing on their property (a.k.a., "Yes in God's Back Yard"); this has been difficult for churches (such as nearby Resurrection) because of zoning restrictions (Immanuel has no such plans!); and
- (2) expanding prisoners' access to higher education, a priority of our Governor.

You can register on the Interfaith Center's website (go to www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org and scroll down). The Social Justice Committee can reimburse you if you'd like.

In this time of turmoil at the national level, it's rewarding to know that we can (and do) have a material impact on issues at the state level. Questions? Contact Jamie Conrad at jwc58@comcast.net.

IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

Parish Notes

December 22, 2024

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. Both chapels offer 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. 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: Aggie Fortune, Ann MacNamara, Barbara Ramsdell, Catherine Sinclair, Cynthia Dolvin, Cynthia Morton, Cy Murphy, Gary and MeiLung DeVight, Joan, Joseph, Ken and Mia Mason, Kenny, Lynn Gas, Margaret Messenger, Natalie Doyle Hennin, Norma Taliaferro, and Wendy Hoge.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Ann Langdon Days, Anna Woodward, Ashleighana, Barbara Sagan, Betsy Fox Berry, Betty Hicks, Brian and Joyce, Bridget Rice Rose, Carol Ording, Charlotte Kellogg, Dana De Cecco, Dorothy Gerhart, Felicia Balzano, George Rustigian, Gerald, Jack Allen, Jean Couban, Jean Williams, Jennie Rae, Jessi Napolitano, Jill Lane, Joanne Perla, Joe Micelli, Joseph Fabian, Joseph and Elaine Kelly, Joyce Di Misa, Kathryn Anschutz, Kathy Porter, the Rev. Kelly Moughty, Lavinia Johnson, Lilly Pinner, Linda Gill, Louise Jackson, Lucie Bauer, Lysbeth, Michael, Marcia Richardson, MariAnn Hollis, Marty Childs, McQuade Milligan, Mary Muniz, Pamela, Paul, Peter Blackledge, Rebecca Smith, Richard Zitelli, Rosemary Wensing, Ryan Willis, Sarah Minor, Soundary Dilan, Stephen Miller, Stephen Spurlock, Susan Little, and Winnie Kidd.

Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Holly Ann Morton, Katydean Price, Jason Donahue, Tim Gildersleeve, Debbie Hewson, Candace Quinlan, Carol Crossmire, Amy Parks, Drew Parks, and Marda Robillard.

Serving around the world: Noah Barker, Ian Phillips, Todd Bates, Jason Osborne, Michael Hussey, and Jonathan, Nicole, Alina and Nolan Anderson, and Scott.

Those who have died: Mable Randolph, and victims of the Abundant Life Christian School shooting in Madison, WI. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Praying with Scripture: An Opportunity for Reflection After Eucharist

Silent prayer or mediation draws us closer to God. When we focus on one of the Sunday scripture passages, we may discover more of God's message to us. Beginning today — and continuing for the next three consecutive Sundays — we will have the opportunity to explore praying with scripture in the **Octagon Room** off the small Oratory Chapel following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pick up a treat at coffee hour, bring your bulletin, and join us to meditate on one of the scripture passages for the day. Our prayer time will conclude by 12:30 p.m.



The Nominating Committee has begun its work of recruiting new members of the Vestry. If you have any suggestions or input please feel free to reach out to any member of the Committee: Gerry Anderson, chair, Amy Thomas, Peter Kent, Julie Bruns, Kathy Lloyd, Doug John, and the Rector. All may be reached through the Parish Directory.

Announcements

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome to participate

Weekly Bible Study: “*The Book of Luke*” Returns
Thursday, January 2nd @10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.
Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.

Evening Compline Returns, Friday, January 3rd @ 8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom

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

Noonday Holy Eucharist Rite II returns, Wednesday, January 8th, Zabriskie Chapel



UPCOMING SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

December 24	4:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Full Choir, Brass and Harp</i>	Immanuel Chapel
	8:40 p.m.	<i>Christmas Prelude with Choral Ensemble, Brass and Harp</i>	
	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
December 29	8:00 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	First Sunday After Christmas with Holy Eucharist Rite II	Immanuel Chapel
January 5, 2025	8:00 a.m.	Epiphany Sunday (transferred) with Holy Eucharist Rite I	Zabriskie Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Children’s Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II followed by Festive Reception</i>	Immanuel Chapel



DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025 IT’S EASY TO SIGN UP ONLINE

We have a New SignUp Genius Service Plan

Sign-up to Serve in our Sunday Services *through DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2025* ONLINE — including Christmastide masses —by visiting the landing page of our website at ICOH.net and clicking our **Red SignUp Genius Button** or scanning the QR code at right.



THANK YOU for your participation!

Our **EYC Winter Retreat at Shrine Mont** is coming up on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend - January 17th to 20th. This weekend will consist of activities, including skiing at Bryce Resort, indoor games, religious services, and possibly hiking.

Since our normal lodging at St Andrews is not available due to a construction project next door to the building. We will stay at the [Stidley Cottage](#), which has a smaller capacity. As a result, we need to get a handle on the number of adults and youths that will attend. We may be able to get a second cabin depending on availability and will strive to accommodate everyone — but youth have first priority.

If you/your youth would like to join us, please respond via email to jbrianrush@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us for a weekend of fellowship and great outdoor activities!

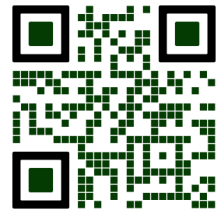


UPDATE: Every Member Pledge Campaign for 2025 “Living Gratefully”

As of Thursday, December 12th, we had received around 102 pledges for a total of over \$566,807. This is a strong start, but we still have a ways to go, as we imagine this figure to be about half of those who will pledge. This is an opportunity for all of us to give back to God from all we have been given.

Prayerful and intentional pledging expresses our thanks for God’s many gifts, and it supports our beloved parish church in all of its many vital ministries and our life together in Christ.

In addition to filling out a hardcopy pledge form and mailing it to the church — or dropping it in the alms basis during a service — you can pledge online using Immanuel’s [website](#) and click the green **Pledge Here** button, or by scanning the QR code at right.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORLD with The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs
Our next gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th

Join her in the new year on Wednesday, January 8, 2025
from **10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street.
All are welcome!



CONFIRMATION CLASS FORMING: Immanuel is scheduled for a Bishop’s visitation and Confirmation on Sunday, March 16, 2025. We will form a Youth Confirmation Class and a separate track for adults who want to be Confirmed or Received. Please reach out to any of the clergy if you are interested.

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
 Beatrice Osumba (bosumba@vts.edu) Seminarian
 Dr. Jane Tavernier (jtavernier@icoh.net) Director of Music
 Tom Hewson (thewson@icoh.net) Treasurer
 Mollie Lambert (mlambert@icoh.net) Assistant Treasurer
 Mike Morgan (mmorgan@icoh.net) Finance Manager
 Aleta Y. Powell (apowell@icoh.net) Parish Administrator
 Tamika Martin (tmartin@icoh.net) Audio Visual Technician
 Gilma Balcarcel Nursery Coordinator
 Miguelina Guzmán Nursery Assistant
 Tim Lawhorn Sexton

THE VESTRY

Gerry Anderson Senior Warden and Senior Ministry
 Amy Thomas Junior Warden: Building and Grounds, Creation Care
 Peter Kent Junior Warden: Administration
 Taylor Houck Adult Formation and Discipleship
 Brad Ashton and Philip Brown Stewardship and Planned Giving
 Julie Bruns Outreach
 Kathy Lloyd Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
 Mark Fearer Social Justice and Pastoral Care
 Brian Rush Evangelism and Newcomers
 Matt Haskin Worship
 Caroline Bergmark Registrar, Communications
 Sophie Johnson, Sydney Onley, David Lloyd, and Isabelle Young-Smith Youth Representatives

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I, Zabriskie Chapel
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:30 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 F. 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 HOURS

Weekdays 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Telephone: 703•370•6555, Fax: 703•370•0837

ICOH.net



Ways to GIVE