



# Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

## Episcopal/Anglican Alexandria, Virginia



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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

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

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

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## 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.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



## The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, iudicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

## **The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

## **The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord

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

## **Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Spurlock Biggs**

*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 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.*

p. 343

### 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.*

### Post Communion Prayer

p. 339

*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.*

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### SERVING AT THIS EUCHARIST:

<i>Reader/Intercessor:</i>	Signa Strom
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Diana Walker
<i>Usher:</i>	Dodd Sims
<i>Flower Guild:</i>	Candy Levin
<i>Vestry Greeter/Counter:</i>	Brian Rush
<i>Celebrant:</i>	The Rev. Susan D. Parsons

# IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

## Parish Notes

### December 7, 2025

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**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](http://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:** Sarah Glassco, Maggie Goodyear, Liam Kirby, Joy McLaughlin, Ryan Rodriguez, Anthony Burke, Rick Glassco, Celeste Rush, and Jamie Conrad.

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

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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.



### **OPPORTUNITY TO ACCOMPANY IMMIGRANTS TO ICE CHECK INS OR TO IMMIGRATION**

**COURT:** The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC has developed a short (3 hour) training program for people who are interested in accompanying immigrants to ICE check ins or to immigration court in the Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia area. A number of immigrants are requesting such accompaniment. The purpose is not to protest, disrupt, video, or offer advice, but rather to serve as a companion, walking with the immigrant (and sometimes driving them), whatever the outcome. If you are interested in learning more, please contact David Atwood, Julie Bruns, or Nancy Reuschel. Upcoming trainings are taking place December 7 and 13.

# Announcements

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## WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

*All are welcome to participate*

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Morning Prayer Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m., Zabriskie Chapel

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*Quiet Prayer*, Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

The Oratory Chapel inside Immanuel Chapel

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Weekly Bible Study: “*The Gospel of John*” Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

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

*Look for login details in your weekly eBlast email.*

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Compline, Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 p.m, online via Zoom

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

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



## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP: DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Senior Adult Ministry and Fellowship will visit the **National Gallery of Art** December 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:sparsons@icoh.net)) if you are not a resident of Goodwin House, and to Susan Kernan ([skernan40@aol.com](mailto:skernan40@aol.com)) if you are a resident.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:DEDICATIONS@ICOH.NET)



# 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
<b>Remaining</b> (more to come)	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>222</b>

So we hope for many more sign-ups **today**, 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.

**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](mailto:serabian@somaarchitects.com)>  
 Dorothy Kellogg <<mailto:djaskellogg@gmail.com>>    Connie Kurz <<mailto:cgkurz@aol.com>>  
 Laura Snow <[laurabsnow@verizon.net](mailto:laurabsnow@verizon.net)>



**St. Nicholas Exhibit Tour for children ages 1-18: December 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sspurlockbiggs@icoh.net) to be included!



### ***SIGN-UP TO SERVE: DECEMBER - 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](http://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!**



## 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](http://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](http://ICOH.net)



Ways to GIVE