



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church Woodbridge

March 26, 2023

Ponderings of the Assistant

Chris Tomlin's song "Our God" has as the central theme, *"And if our God is for us who can be against us....what can stand against us?"*

This week in John's first letter we are confronted by the Anti-Christ. We don't often think about this being who is opposed to Christian values, and in fact wants to substitute self in Christ's place. However, the Anti-Christ is at work in this world in many ways. Ways that distract us from our Christian values, our very Christianity.

Where do we find the work of the Anti-Christ in our world, our nation? Often, we look to the massive number of homeless and hungry children. We look to the destruction of people through genocide and persecution.

Closer to home there are many places that the Anti-Christ is at work in our lives.

Our political leaders are more interested in the power of their party than the people whom they are to serve.

Our negligence of our environment for which we are experiencing the backlash.

Our neighbors who are very different from us and we choose to

ignore rather than embrace.

Our children are deeply entrenched in violent video and computer games.

Our gluttony as we experience shortages of goods and services. And yet we have more goods than the rest of the world.

Our ignoring the homeless among us. So long as they stay in the woods and don't try to panhandle it is okay.

Mobs, cartels, drugs, shootings, sex trafficking, physical abuse along with mental and emotional abuse. Our world as influenced by the Anti-Christ.

What does our Lord Jesus Christ call us to do? Go into the world and make disciples of each and everyone. I don't possess the power to combat drugs, sex trafficking, mobs, cartels, or abuse to others. What I do have is God with me to go into the world and make disciples. Go into the world in humbleness, prayer, and testimony. To share the fact of Immanuel, God with us.

In Christ,

Pastor Sallie Rathbone

INFORMATION

March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship

Please join us each Sunday at 10 am at our **new building** located at 7075 Hoadly Road, Manassas, VA, or via [livestream](#). Visit iachurch.org/worship for more details.

A Morning Prayer service is offered via [Zoom](#) every Thursday at 8am.

Living Lent Together

Visit the Season of Lent, Worship Services, and Lenten Resources on our [website](#) for recommendations on spiritual disciplines to create space for the grace the Lord is giving us for 2023 -- "You are loved: Abide. Invite. Welcome."

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday	4-2-2023	10:00 am
Maundy Thursday	4-6-2023	7:00 pm
Good Friday	4-7-2023	
Stations of the Cross		12:00 pm
Interactive Stations of the Cross	12:30pm - 3:00 pm	
Good Friday Service		7:00 pm
Holy Saturday	4-8-2023	
Guided Meditations	9:00 am – 12:30 pm	
Easter Sunday	4-9-2023	7:00 am
		10:00 am

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inreach Coordinator Needed: Immanuel's Inreach program assists church members in their time of need when they can't help themselves. The coordinator duties include providing help to those in need by scheduling meal deliveries, transportation, light yard work, or any service that may be helpful using volunteers and sign-up genius. This volunteer serves under the direction of the Rector and in cooperation with the Pastoral Assistant. If interested, please contact the office at office@iachurch.org or 703-340-3120.

Guided Meditation: Holy Saturday is the final day of Holy Week between Good Friday and Easter. This is a time when Christians prepare for the celebration of Easter which some call Resurrection Sunday. On Holy Saturday we will have a time to meditate on Psalm 46. The theme of this time is "Be Still". The time will include guided meditation and extended time for participants to "Be Still". All that is needed for you to bring is a Bible, and if you want a journal. For information contact Pastor Sallie at srathbone@iachurch.org.

Alpha: Alpha is an invitation to listen and ask questions about God and Jesus. People you know may have questions and doubts. Dr. David Jeremiah encourages us that "Doubt is a matter of a rational mind asking good questions. And God isn't scared by that. He welcomes it and has solid answers for our honest questions." So during Lent as we are cultivating the practice of invitation, consider inviting your friends, neighbors, or coworkers. If they have questions or doubts, plant the seed for our full Alpha session starting this September. To give you a taste, please join Immanuel for one of four *Taste of Alpha's* on May 7th. You will see how Alpha is run by watching "Is there more to life than this?" Exactly the type of question someone might be asking during Lent, or really anytime. If you have

questions or would like to help please see Emily Mathews or myself.

Women's Book Club: the next meeting will be on April 11th at 7 PM at the home of Kathy Wescott (3708 Beaver Ford Drive, Woodbridge). Be prepared by reading Coal River by Ellen Wiseman. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Call or email Cathleen Giannini at 851-0908 or cragchat@gmail.com with any questions.

Men's Breakfast: Please plan to attend the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Immanuel Anglican Church (7075 Hoadly Road), 7:30 am.

Men's Dinner: Every Monday evening at 5 pm a group of men from Immanuel meet at a local restaurant to share good food and fellowship. We meet at a different location each Monday to get a variety of types of food. Please put it on your calendar to join us and bring a friend. Everyone's welcome! This Monday, March 27, we will meet at Noodles and Company.

Women's Dinner: The next dinner will be held on April 18, at 5:00 pm. The women will meet at The All American Steakhouse to enjoy dinner and fellowship time. If you plan to attend, please contact the office at tharpster@iachurch.org so enough tables can be reserved. See you there!

PROGRAMS

Immanuel Kids: *Clank! Beep! Clunk!* Kids love robots, especially ones that can transform into something new or have really cool abilities. In this four-week series from Jesus' ministry on earth, you'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything—including us! We'll see that **we change when we know who God is, our past doesn't change God's love for us, and that Jesus changes how we see things because Jesus can change anything!**

Backpacks For Kids: at Immanuel provides weekend food to 27 kids in need at King Elementary. You can help by donating food from the [Amazon Wish List](#), bringing food to Worship Sunday mornings or writing a check and including Backpacks For Kids in the memo. See immanuelanglicanchurch.org/backpacks for details. We pack weekend food bags during Mission Monday—the 2nd Monday of each month from 5:30pm-6:30pm. If you are interested in helping pack or deliver food, contact mbyers@iachurch.org.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Our Bible Study is taking a pause during Lent so we can participate in Life Groups. We will resume our study of 1st John using the Serendipity Bible format in April. For more information about the Women's Monday Night Bible Study, please contact Deb Tomchek at dtomchek@aol.com or by phone at (703) 597-4136.

Tuesday Morning Study: The Ladies meet at 10:00 AM in the Nave to study *Missing Pieces: Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense* by Jennifer Rothschild. Zoom link is available! We are a multi-denominational, multi-generation group committed to growing closer to the life we are called to in Jesus Christ. For more information, please contact Barbara Finney at 703-405-2651.

Saturday Morning Men's Study: The men of IAC will meet on Saturday 3/25/23 at 8 am to study John Stott's short book, "Letters of John". **For the 3/25 session read 1 John 2:3-17 in your bible and complete Study Three (pp.15 - 20) in Stott's book, Letters of John.** All men are encouraged to attend; sessions last from 1 to 2 hours. For books contact Alan Clark (703)627-4725. Cost of book is \$8 (scholarship's available). Coffee and donuts are free. (Participation by ZOOM is welcome but bring your own coffee and donuts). Click [here](#) to join.

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