



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

November 30, 2025

Pastor's Corner "Advent Begins in the Dark"

"Advent begins in the dark and moves toward the light—but the season should not move too quickly or too glibly, lest we fail to acknowledge the depth of the darkness. As our Lord Jesus tells us, unless we see the light of God clearly, what we call light is actually darkness: 'how great is that darkness!' (Matt. 6:23). Advent bids us take a fearless inventory of the darkness: the darkness without and the darkness within." (Fleming Rutledge)

This is not a very Christmasy quote to start off December, and it feels out of sync with all the lights and gift-buying and nostalgic music and decorations on display. **That's because the Church keeps time differently.** Advent doesn't close out our year; it begins our liturgical year. And right at the beginning of our year we acknowledge two things:

- Our world, inward and outward, is in a dark place.
- The Light is coming, has come, and will come again.

For generations Advent has pointed Christians beyond Christmas to the Second Coming of Jesus. We definitely rejoice in his first coming in the manger, his bright entry into the very heart of our darkness (John 1:1-9). But we also prepare for his Second Coming. We reflect deeply on the Scriptural story of the Light overcoming the darkness—eternally dispelling death, the

devil, and sin—by God-in-the-flesh coming to live, die, live again, ascend, *and return*. **Advent is our season of Hope-Full Waiting for the coming of Jesus**, “when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, [and we shall] rise to the life immortal.”

I'll share more about Advent this Saturday, November 29, when we gather at 10am for our [“Welcome to Advent”](#) event, and Melissa Byers will guide you in creating Jesse Tree Ornaments that tell the Story of Light from creation to Christ's cradle. (Stay afterward and help us decorate the Nave!)

We will experience Advent the following day in our Sunday worship. **In addition to being a “One Service Sunday” beginning at 9:30am**, the liturgy will be dramatically different. We will begin in the dark with the [Great Litany](#) and lighting of the Advent Wreath, and contemplatively move toward the Hope-Full light of the Eucharist.

I appreciate that this year the First Sunday of Advent immediately follows Thanksgiving. Today we will gather with family and friends to feast and express gratefulness for the many good gifts the Father gives. *“Feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are, at their heart, acts of war,”* writes Douglas McKelvey. *“In celebrating this feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word.”*

No, that final word will be spoken by Jesus at the Second Coming. *“For the Lord himself will descend with a cry of command,”* banishing darkness forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). **Let us give thanks for our great Hope.**

Your Pastor in Christ,

Travis +

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Vestry Nominating Committee, consisting of:

Kathy Oravetz, Chair – (koravetzdpt@gmail.com)

Janice Flynn – (grammy41966@icloud.com)

Becky Ragon – (beckyragon25@gmail.com)

Jean Albert – (jwalbertpk@gmail.com)

announces that the next Vestry election will be on January 25, 2026, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

There are three vacancies for three-year terms each and one vacancy for one-term. We are asking that:

1. those interested carefully and prayerfully consider indicating your interest to one of the Nominating Committee members; and,
2. if anyone eligible to vote in the election knows of someone they believe would be a strong candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee with his/her name so we can follow up.

According to the Bylaws of Immanuel Anglican Church, Vestry members must be at least eighteen years of age, have been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the ACNA and GAFCON, and who do not have immediate familial relationships, such as spousal, sibling, or parental (including in-law) relationships, with current staff or with continuing Vestry members. In addition, a candidate shall be:

- a. A mature Christian;
- b. One who maintains an active life of prayer and study of Scripture;
- c. One whose life and relationships are in order;

- d. One who is known and respected among the Congregation;
- e. One who has been or is currently active in ministry;
- f. One who is known as a cheerful giver of time, talent, and treasure;
- g. One who understands, has counted the cost of, and is committed to fulfilling the responsibilities and duties of a Vestry member; and,
- h. One who affirms the Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese as set forth in Article I of the Diocesan Constitution and the Standards (see Appendix I).
- i. One who affirms and abides by The Standards of Morality and Ethics as set forth in Title II, Canon 5 of the Diocesan Canons (see Appendix II).

Additional notifications and important information will be communicated in future.

Click [here](#) to view the following Appendices

Appendix I: The Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Appendix II: The Standards of Morality and ethics

Worship

Please join us, each Sunday at 8:00am or 10:30am at 7075 Hoadly Road, Manassas, VA. You may also join us at 10:30am via livestream.

Morning Prayer is offered via Zoom every Thursday at 8am.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85934655171>

Meeting ID: 859 3465 5171

Morning Prayer is offered at Immanuel Tuesday - Friday, in the Nave from 8:30am - 9:30am.

Midday prayer is offered Tuesday – Friday in the Nave at noon.

Visit iachurch.org/worship for more details.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 27-28	The Office is closed	
Nov. 29	Welcome to Advent	10:00 am Nave
Nov. 30	One Service-Contemplative	9:30 am Nave
Dec 3	Advent Oasis	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 10	Advent Oasis	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 17	Advent Oasis	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 21	Carol Sing & Tree Lighting	5-9:00pm Outside
Dec 24	Christmas Service	5:00 pm Nave
	Christmas Service	8:00 pm Nave
Dec 25-Jan 3	Office Closed	

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel Tree Tag Sundays: All the gift tags have been claimed. Help our church bless the local community and Beville Middle School by helping provide Christmas gifts for members of their school family who are in need. Sunday 12/7 is Gift Return Sunday...bring the

wrapped gift AND tag (so we can match it) back to church so we can bless it and deliver it! If you have any questions, please see Kristi Ellison or contact her at ellisonfam@verizon.net.

BP 4 Kids: Opportunity to Be Instruments of God's Love: Immanuel is blessed to be able to help nearly 40 needy students at M L King Elementary with bags filled with breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for the weekends. You can help with monetary and/or food donations. The donation box (and list of items needed) is in the hallway near the restrooms. Contact: Dean or Pat Tony patbtoney@gmail.com. Thank you for your donations for the inspiring book, *Bells in the Air*, written by E.B. Butler. *Bells in the Fog*, the second book in the series, is now available, for a suggestion donation of \$10. Thanks to Hugh Replogle for donating these children's adventure books to support the Backpack 4 Kids Mission.

The Food Cupboard Ministry: For the month of December we are collecting diapers sizes 4 – 7, Pull-Ups and baby wipes. The food cupboard is to the left as you enter the storage room located between classrooms 1 & 2.

Welcome to Advent: Join us Saturday, November 29 at 10am to learn about the meaning of Advent, create your own Jesse tree ornaments and discover how Immanuel will celebrate this special season together. Sign up on Realm: <https://onrealm.org/IAChurch/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MjcwNmQxMWUtNGU4NS00MDVmLWlmOGQtYjM3ZDAxODU5MmZk>

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Immanuel Kids: Immanuel Kids: Can you imagine if Esther and Mordecai were spies sent on a mission to infiltrate the palace and thwart Haman's plot to harm the Jewish people? It might sound like a stretch, but God was working behind the scenes the entire time, even though God's name is missing from the official records! In this 5-week series, kids will learn that **God gives me a mission,**

nothing will turn me away from God, I can stand up for God and others, I can follow God even when nobody's watching, and God can send me to make peace.

Youth Group: Youth Group is for youth in 6th-12th grade. We will not have Youth Group on November 23 or November 30. Youth Group will resume December 7 from 12:15-1:30. Also, Save the Date for December 14 at 6pm for our Youth Christmas Party. RSVP on Realm. Contact Melissa Byers mbyers@iachurch.org to join our newsletter for important dates.

Sunday Night Men's Bible Study: The men will meet on November 30, 2025 to continue their study of Genesis. They meet from 7-8:30 pm in classroom 4. If you have any questions, see or email Bob Mann (mannrm@comcast.net) or Mike Harpster (MikeHarpster@comcast.net).

Men's Dinner: All Immanuel men and their guests are invited to join us for some fellowship and conversation at our weekly Monday Men's Dinner on December 1, at 5:00 pm at United Buffet located at 2942 Prince William Pkwy, Woodbridge. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Continues next Monday using Sarah K. Howley's book "Word: An 11 Session Study of Matthew". The group meets via ZOOM on Mondays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please contact Kathy Oravetz at 571-334-8786 or koravetzdpt@gmail.com for more information. December 1, 7 p.m. -Chapter 11, Matthew 26-28. We will be on hiatus through the Christmas season.

January 8, 6 p.m. the group will meet for dinner and fellowship at Giorgio's Family Restaurant 4394 Kevin Walker Dr., Montclair, VA 22025 Giorgio's – Family Restaurant

January 12, 7 p.m. will resume Monday night studies with a video series "Truth Rising," a Colson Fellows program. It will be facilitated by Lydia's daughter, Kristina. You may see a preview here: [The Study - Truth Rising](#)

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: Join us, as we follow The Chosen, Season 5: Last Supper. Workbooks are available, price TBD (but under \$20). To pre-order a workbook or for any questions, please call or text Barbara Finney at 703-405-2651 or email blynn56@verizon.net. We meet at 10:00 am on Tuesdays in classroom 1. There is room for you!!

Tuesday Ladies Dinner: The next dinner (Potluck this time) will be at the home of Barbara Finney Located at 12629 Stone Lined Circle, Woodbridge, on December 16, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by to Teharpster@comcast.net by December 10, so there is enough time to plan a menu. We get together to enjoy a meal monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The restaurant rotation will resume in January!

Saturday Morning Men's Discussion: There will be NO SMMD meetings for the balance of November 29th. The next SMMD meeting will be on 12/06/25 for a special presentation on comparisons of bible translations. (All IAC men are invited).

Women's Book Club: The book club will not meet in December. The next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th at 7pm at Penny Barriteau's home located at 3217 Culbreth Ct. Woodbridge, VA. The book we are reading is The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson. You can call Cathleen Giannini at 703-851-0908 or cragchat@gmail.com with any questions.

Men's Breakfast: The men will meet next time for the monthly breakfast at 8:00am Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Immanuel. Come join in for a hot breakfast and fellowship.

Stay Connected with Our Diocese! Looking for inspiration and updates from across our Diocese? The Mid-Atlantic Messenger is the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic's official e-newsletter, filled with stories that uplift and inform. Each edition features a message from the Bishop, updates on ordinations, and powerful stories of how churches are engaging in ministry and community outreach. You'll also find encouraging photos and opportunities to participate in what God is doing throughout the Diocese. Stay in the loop and be encouraged—subscribe today: anglicandoma.org/messenger
Follow along on social media:

 Facebook: facebook.com/AnglicanDOMA

 Instagram: instagram.com/diocesefromthemidatlanti

County Community Activities

The Manassas Chorale Performance: The Chorale is performing Merry and Bright on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 7:30 pm at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Come enjoy this concert with a cause and help by bringing cereal/oatmeal, pasta/sauce, soup, rice, beans (dry/canned), canned vegetables, and canned meat. Contact Rebecca Verner, Director at info@manassaschorale.org or the Hylton Center Box Office at 703-993-7759 Tues-Sat 10-6pm for more information.

Life First News: THE DUMFRIES CENTER IS WELL ON THE WAY TO OPENING!!!! It amazes me that this center, which is in the perfect location to serve such a vulnerable population, should be opening in the New Year. The Center was successful in meeting a \$25,000 matching gift campaign last month. If you feel the Lord leading you to participate in procuring small and/or larger needs to get the center up and running, please click on the link below to reach the Gift Registry for the Dumfries location

<https://share.google/whYtsiCw2iaLvYBHK>

I will share with you the end of year statistics when they are available. I am so grateful to be a part of this congregation which is committed to saving the unborn and sharing the gospel to all who find themselves in crisis with an unplanned pregnancy. Thank you everyone, from the bottom of my heart!

Not receiving The Weekly? You can sign up on the IAC website by going to [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and complete the subscribe form. If you need help, contact the Parish Administrator at office@iachurch.org.

Lost and Found

The found items are on the Usher's Table.

Building Usage

If you or your group would like to use a room at the church, please contact the office at office@iachurch.org or tharpster@iachurch.org to schedule the date, time and room. Unscheduled meetings cannot always be accommodated.

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