



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

December 21, 2025

Pastor's Corner "The Great 'O' Antiphons"

Yesterday, Wednesday December 17, began the Octave (eight days) leading up to Christmas. **One of the ancient traditions of the Church is to pray, chant, or sing the seven "O Antiphons,"** one every day until Christmas Eve, and then all seven on Christmas Eve. It's a wonderful way of praying through the titles in Scripture given to Jesus, our coming King. **You may not realize it, but you know these Antiphons.** They are the seven verses of "O Come Emmanuel":

O come, O come, Thou Wisdom from on High...Thou Lord of Might...Branch of Jesse's Tree...Key of David...Dayspring from on High...Desire of Nations...Emmanuel.

There's a prophetic symmetry to the reverse order of the Latin titles. Emmanuel (God with us), Rex (King), Oriens (Dawn), Clavis (Key), Radix (Root), Adonai (Lord), Sapientia (Wisdom). The first letter of each forms the Latin acrostic, "*Ero cras.*" Translated: "*Tomorrow, I will come.*"—the promise of Jesus, the object of our Hope-Full Waiting in Advent.

I encourage you to begin or end each day leading up to Christmas Eve by contemplating these Antiphons. You can use the familiar hymn "O Come Emmanuel," or perhaps read the slightly different but profound older versions alongside Scripture. (Use "[The Great 'O' Antiphons](#)" as a guide.)

The poet Malcolm Guite has written [one stirring sonnet](#) for each Antiphon. I share his concluding sonnet below, and join in his prayer that Jesus would "**Unfold for us the mystery of grace/And make a womb of all this wounded world.**"

O Emmanuel

*O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.*

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.

Vestry Nominations are now open, and applications are being accepted through January 5, 2025. An application can be found [here](#) or by using this link:
<https://www.immanuelanglicanchurch.org/vestry>

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

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	
Jan 5	Vestry Nominations Close	
Jan 6	Epiphany Eucharist	7:00 pm Nave
Jan 4	Chalking the doors	
Jan 9 and 10	Hilda Barg Meals	
Jan 25	Annual Meeting	12:30-2:00 Nave

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Sing and Nativity Lighting: Please join Immanuel on December 21, 2025, at 5:00pm for an event filled with the singing of traditional Carols for Advent and Christmas to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be served.

BP4 KIDS - Fulfilling God's mission for Immanuel: Thank you Immanuel family, for offering **Refuge, Reconciliation, and Renewal**, providing weekend food for the underserved children of our area. Bless you for offering your prayers for all to experience life with God the Father in Jesus Christ. Would you like to help with food, monetary donations, and/or packing? Please contact Dean and Pat Tony -- patbtony@gmail.com. To be continued in 2026, with expectation of what our faithful Lord will accomplish in the lives of children!

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 on the left as you enter the storage room located between classrooms 1 & 2.

Meals for Hilda Barg: Immanuel Anglican Church will be providing meals to the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center on January 9th & 10th. Please sign up to prepare and deliver one or more of the menu items by clicking [here](#) or by visiting our website. Your generosity helps shine the light of Jesus for those in need.

Chalking the Doors Epiphany Tradition: January 6 is the day we celebrate Epiphany, the day the wise men arrived with gifts for Jesus. A centuries-old tradition of Epiphany practiced all over the world is chalking the doors. It is a time of a family asking God's blessing on their home and on those live in it or visit. It is also an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home and your daily routines.

Directions: The traditional way to chalk your door is to write 20 +

C + M + B + 24 above the entrance to your home using chalk. The letters C, M, B have two meanings: They are the initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 is the year.

Prayer: Peace be to this house and all who live here. O God, please bless this house and all who live here. May all who come to our home this year find Jesus living among us. Holy Spirit, fill us with your love so that our concern for others may reflect your love. Amen

Chalk will be available after the 10:30 service on January 4.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Immanuel Kids: Many families hit the road during the Christmas season, whether it's to visit loved ones or take a much-needed break. It's a time-honored tradition—one that might even be traced back to the first Christmas when a bright star dropped a pin on a special location to guide people to the birthplace of the savior. In this 3-week series, kids will learn that God gives people to guide us, God gives hope to guide us, and God gives a Savior to guide us. There will be no Children's Church or Nursery on Sunday, December 28.

Youth Group: Youth Group is for youth in 6th-12th grade. Youth Group will resume January 4 after the 10:30 service. Save the Date for Second Sunday at 6 on January 11 at 6pm! High Schoolers interested in Feb 13-16 Breakaway Retreat contact mbyers@iachurch.org.

Sunday Night Men's Bible Study: The men will meet on December 14, 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. Due to the holidays, the next dinner will be on January 5, 2026 at Armetta's located at 5224 Staple Mill Plaza, Dale City. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Please contact Kathy Oravetz at 571-334-8786 or koravetzdpt@gmail.com for more information. We will be on hiatus through the Christmas season. Newcomers, old-timers, and everyone in-between are welcome to come, taste and see what God has for us in this group.

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.

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

"What You'll Gain:

- *A deeper understanding of today's civilizational moment—and why it matters.*
- *A biblical framework to live in the world as a Christian.*
- *A clear sense of identity in Christ, not the culture around us.*
- *The confidence to live out your calling with purpose and impact."*

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: Join this lovely, caring group at 10:00 am in Classroom #1 beginning January 6th as we dive into Isaiah using the Melissa Spoelstra book and video: "Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More".

We'll unpack Isaiah's words to reveal that you can trust God more than your own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests. You won't be striving harder but instead trusting more deeply in the Faithful One who is so worthy of our utter dependence. In Him you'll find the comfort and peace you need to sustain you. Workbooks will be around \$22.00. Contact Barbara Finney at blynn56@verizon.net or 703-405-2651.

Tuesday Ladies Dinner: The next dinner will be at The Montclair Family Restaurant located at 17001 Dumfries Rd, Dumfries on January 20, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP to Teharpster@comcast.net, so reservations can be made.

Saturday Morning Men's Discussion:

12/20/2025 Men's breakfast....No Men's Discussion.

12/27/2025 and 1/3/2025 No Men's Discussion due to the holidays.

1/10/2025 Read Chapter Six in the commentary, "Jesus Loses His Crowd", pages 93-105, and the questions on pages 106 and 107. In your bible, read John 6.

Books are available for \$10 from Alan Clark at (703)627-4725 or alan.clark1@verizon.net. Coffee and donuts are provided. Join us and bring a friend or join us via [ZOOM](#). Meeting ID:827 91399156.

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 December 20, for the monthly breakfast at 8:00am. The next breakfast will be Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Immanuel. Come join in for a hot breakfast and fellowship.

County Community Activities

Place your notice here!

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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