The Weekly

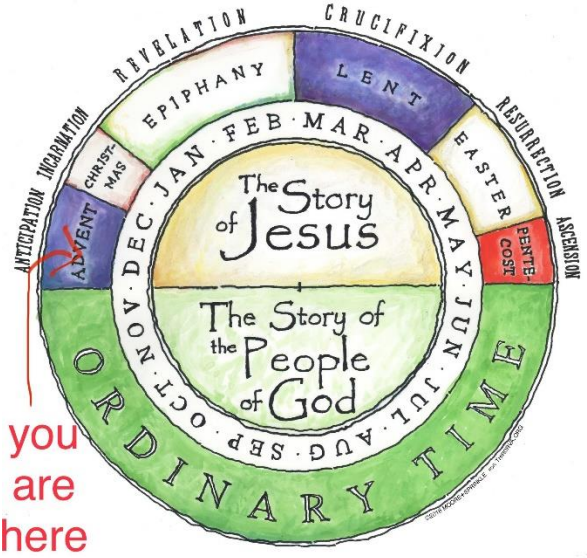
Immanuel Anglican Church Woodbridge

November 28, 2021

Pastor's Corner
Happy New Year!

You read the title correctly. "Happy New Year!" This upcoming Sunday, November 28, marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year according to our ancient Church Calendar. As I mentioned in my video posted on Christ the King Sunday, "very early on in the life of the Church, Christians made their own calendar that helps us to this day have a different rhythm of life and reminds of the Gospel" (Corey Widmer). The liturgical seasons invite us to "Live His Story" – to remember the story of our lives is woven into the greater story of God's re-union of all things in Jesus (Ephesians 1:3-10). All of *his*tory moves toward the answer to our Lord's prayer: "*Thy* kingdom come, *thy* will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We begin by Living in Advent, anticipating the coming King and Kingdom.



(Created by Mark Sprinkle and Andrew More from Third Church. Used with permission.)

The invitation in the first week of Advent is to "Hopeful Living." That might sound odd, as the scriptural focus is on God's coming judgment. Remember, however, two important details. First, God's judgment extends beyond a declaration of good and evil, of reward and punishment. In the Bible – His Story – a judge is one with the authority, power, and goodness to set things right. We have the certain hope that when Jesus returns (anticipating the Parousia), the chaotic disorder of creation will be beautifully re-ordered by Him, and every unjust, immoral action and attitude authoritatively judged.

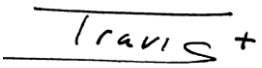
If those last few words about judging injustice and immorality make you uncomfortable…they should! For who among us is ready to have our own attitudes and actions authoritatively addressed by a Holy Judge? And yet, here is our second reason to hope. That Holy Judge has already come once (anticipating Christmas), and "he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that you might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). In other words, those who are in Jesus are ready to be judged;

we have the certain hope that in him we are declared to be righteous, and through him our lives are being set in order.

No wonder Jesus himself says to us not to fear when we see the chaotic evidence pointing to the last days. "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). We have every reason for Hopeful Living, as we enter Advent together.

I look forward to Living His Story with you this Sunday. May Jesus bless your Thanksgiving festivities, and the Holy Spirit bring to your mind many reasons you can give thanks to the Father.

Your Pastor in Christ,



P.S. Remember to bring two important items with you this upcoming Sunday: your creche/manger scene, and your pledge cards. Both will be blessed during the service!

SERVICE INFORMATION

November 28, 2021
First Sunday in Advent 10:00 am

Worship in Person: Please join us each Sunday at 10 am at Beville Middle School located at 4901 Dale Blvd, Woodbridge. Please visit iachurch.org/worship for COVID protocols and other details.

Worship via Livestream: You may join our weekly worship services live at iachurch.org.

The video of the service remains available to you throughout the week to view at other times as well.

Thursdays at "The Office": You are invited you to join in the ancient rhythm of "The Daily Office." Every Thursday through December we offer Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, and Compline through Zoom. Have in hand your Bible and your ***Book of Common Prayer 2019***. (Buy a hardcopy by sending an email to Tyra at office@iachurch.org, or download a free digital copy.) You are also welcome simply to be present as we pray together. Use the links blow to join:

- Morning Prayer, Thursdays at 8am.
- Midday Prayer, Thursdays at Noon.
- Compline, Thursdays at 8pm.

Prayer Requests: Are you suffering with illness, loneliness or have you lost your way? Is the current social environment making you anxious or getting you down? Has God worked in you and through you? Let us pray and praise for/with you. You may send your prayer requests to the office at office@iachurch.org and your needs will be covered in prayer.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Angel" Tree Coming Soon. Yes, 'tis the season to spread God's love with new clothes and toys for children from Beville Middle School who might not otherwise receive any gifts at Christmas. Be on the look out for a Christmas tree filled with tags of items which you may choose to buy a deserving child.

Rocking Around the Boardwalk featuring the Immanuel Anglican tree!

When: Kickoff is Saturday 12/4 from 3 - 5 PM. Trees will be up until the end of December.

Where: Neabsco Regional Park. 12125 Blackburn Rd

Please wear Christmas apparel, ugly sweaters, etc. Expect to have S'mores, Christmas music and crafts. And this event is FREE! FREE! FREE!

Backpacks For Kids: Backpacks For Kids provides weekend food for 38 students in need at King Elementary School. You can help by donating food from the Amazon Wish List, bringing food to Worship Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, September 26 or writing a check and including Backpacks For Kids in the memo. See iachurch.org/backpacks for details. We also need help packing bags each month. If you are interested in helping pack or deliver food, contact mbyers@iachurch.org.

Blessing of the Creches: On November 28, 2021, the first Sunday of Advent, bring your creche (nativity scene) to church and have it blessed after the service. There will be tables to display your treasure and cards to tell a little about your creche.

Stewardship and Generous Giving: Sunday, November 28, is the first opportunity to honor God's generous giving in your life and participate in the stewardship of Immanuel's finances by bringing your completed pledge card to church and giving it to God. If you aren't able to participate on November 28, a second opportunity will be available on December 5, 2021.

PROGRAMS

Immanuel Kids: Kids love to be in the kitchen. They may even love helping prepare something delicious! Having a plan or a recipe usually helps, too. Just like having a plan in the kitchen helps the meal we hope to enjoy, the stories of the Old Testament prophets are like a cookbook that helped people prepare for the Savior that God would send one day. Even though there's no exact recipe, kids will find that they can prepare themselves for a loving relationship with God when they **1) trust God, 2) talk to God, 3) listen to God,** and **4) leave the results to God.**

ReGenerate-Youth Group: high school and middle school youth group, meets Sundays from 12:00-1:15pm in the auxiliary gym right after church on Sundays except for special event days. Please reach out to Jordan Weymouth at jweymouth@iachurch.org with any questions.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: We will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 29 at 7 p.m. to continue our 5-week Advent Bible study: *Our Hope Has Come*. This week, we will review the lessons studied for Week 1, Our Hope Revealed. All are welcome to join us. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Deb Tomchek at dtomchek@aol.com or by phone at (703) 597-4136.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study: Please join us in the multipurpose room at All Saints' from 10 AM—noon each Tuesday. Currently our studies are based on Archbishop Foley Beach's free, daily devotional, A Word From The Lord, found online at AWFTL.org. If fully vaccinated, a mask is not required. If not fully vaccinated, a mask is required at all times. For more information, please contact Chloellen@comcast.net.

Saturday Morning Men's Study: **Saturday Morning Men's Study:** We will take a pause during this holiday season and resume our weekly meetings in mid-January. Stay tuned weekly for further updates.

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