

The Almond Tree: *In Brief*



NEWS CIRCULAR OF IMMANUEL CHURCH-ON-THE-HILL

October 1, 2020

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Clockwise from top left: *Jeannie Cummins Eisenhours* performs "Bless the Lord My Soul", *Doug John* performs "Save the People", *Ginny Johnstone* proudly advertises Immanuel's Pumpkin Patch on her car each year, and Evensong EYC dancers *Sydney* and *Grace* perform "Day by Day". All performers were participating in *All Good Gifts: An Immanuel Evensong* last month. All photos submitted by subjects.

Thank You

A letter of appreciation from the mother-daughter duo who helped produce "All Good Gifts: An Immanuel Evensong" online September 11th.



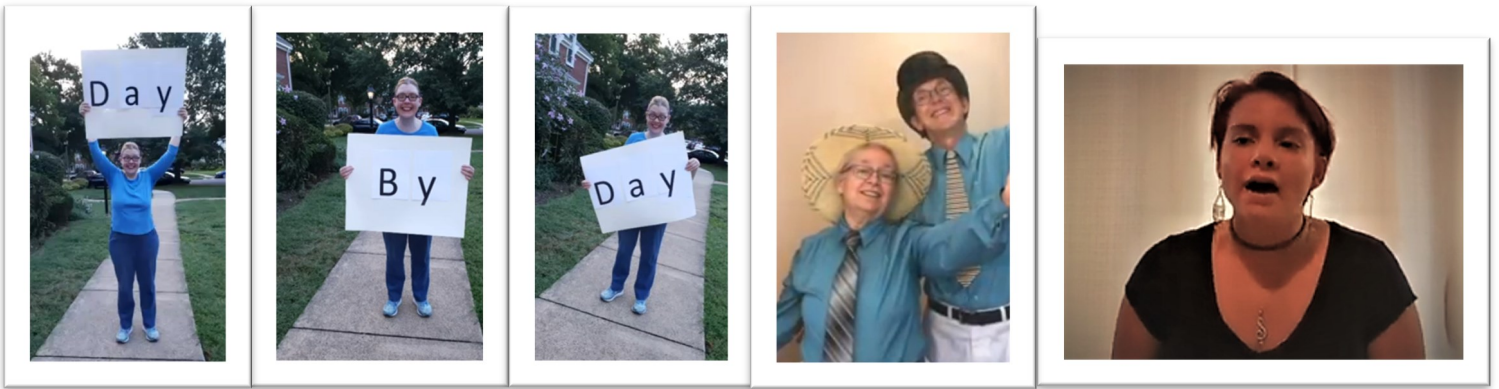
An Evensong for the Ages

As our Immanuel community searched this summer for new ways to engage safely in worship, fellowship and outreach, it became clear that our world has been turned upside-down. We needed something to ground us, remind us who we are, and create a sense of connection.

This is how our "virtual evensong for homecoming" was born ... and what a homecoming it was! The singing, dancing, artwork, reading and instrumental performances were a feast for the senses. The audience provided real-time commentary throughout, with laughs, tears and cheers. Our community partners, ALIVE! Inc., Carpenter's Shelter and Lazarus Ministry, joined us to share how they are feeding, clothing and housing our neighbors who are struggling in this difficult time.

You can still donate, so please visit their websites and consider making an "evensong offering." The evensong has raised nearly \$700 for our partners thus far, and we would be delighted if we could double this amount.

✠ ALIVE! Incorporated: <https://www.alive-inc.org/> (click "Get Involved")



Left to right: Beth McGahuey creatively introduces the song “Day By Day”, Sarah and Rick Glassco sing — and add percussion — for the song “All for the Best”, Amanda Eisenhour sings “Beautiful City”.

- ✝ Carpenter's Shelter: <https://carpentersshelter.org> (click "Volunteer" or "Ways to Give")
- ✝ Lazarus Ministry: <https://www.historicchristchurch.org/get-involved/groups-that-gather/let-us-help/lazarus-ministry/> (click "Give")

Amanda and I would like to thank everyone who shared their amazing talents to bring this Evensong to our Immanuel community, including all of our readers and performers. We loved how you interpreted the readings and songs: from school marm to rock star to zany comic duo, you had us, hook, line and sinker. We are also incredibly grateful to our planning team, to those who produced our piano backing tracks and to our clergy for selecting readings and offering a fitting homily in remembrance of the 9-11 tragedy.

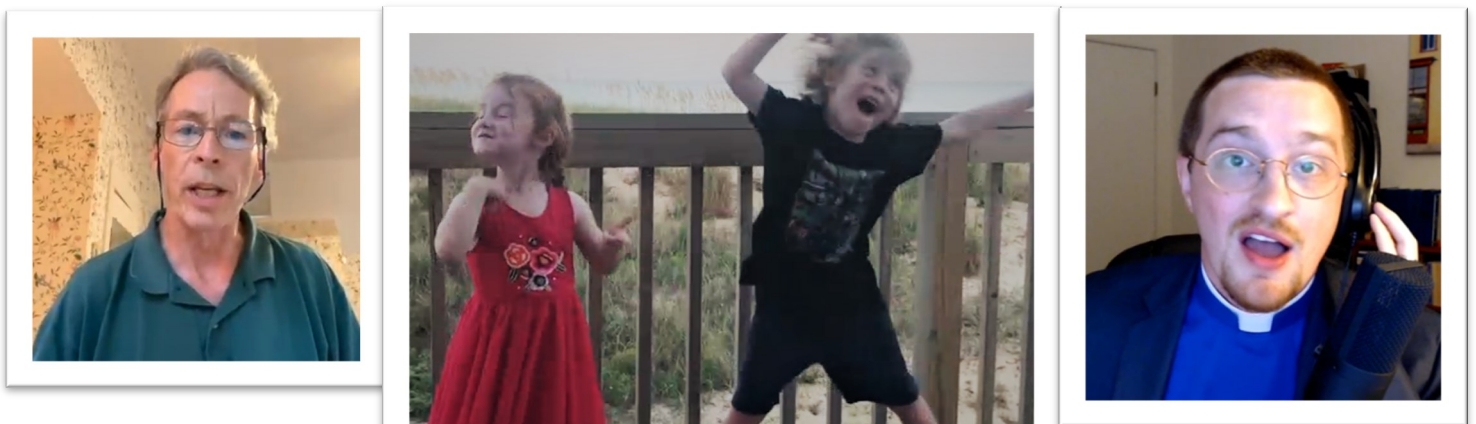
When Stephen Schwartz wrote "Godspell," he wanted to illustrate how Jesus created a nurturing community in a place ruled by corruption, tyranny and hypocrisy. Jesus taught the disciples that, even in the midst of such suffering and turmoil, we can learn to love each other, to forgive and to have faith in the light which the darkness cannot overcome. He taught his flock to do these things for each other and for the glory of God, even when he was no longer with them in the flesh. Then, he sent them forth to share this good news and redeem the world.

In the midst of pandemic isolation, unprecedented political and social unrest, racial conflict, environmental upheaval, and disquieting memories of 9-11, this Evensong reminded us that our Immanuel community can laugh, cry, reflect, love and praise together no matter how far apart we are. And, we can support our partners who toil daily to ensure our neighbors in need are sustained in mind, body and spirit.

We can build a Beautiful City: not a city of angels but a city of man.

— Jeannie Cummins Eisenhour and Amanda Eisenhour

P.S.: While we did not record the entire event for licensing reasons, you can view recordings of all of the musical performances and the homily at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cJAliQtJ5HfqOVZ9DGjtxTrEnDRTpLBQ?usp=sharing>



Left to right: Jamie Conrad sings “We Beseech Thee”; dancing duo Cora and Thomas perform to Father Sam singing “Day by Day”.



This Sunday, October 4, 2020

Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m., The Grove at VTS
Unloading of pumpkins immediately after Eucharist on the Zabriskie Chapel's front lawn.

Pumpkin Patch Hours

PUMPKIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH: 1- 4 P.M.

Monday - Friday: 12noon - 6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FLU SHOTS AT IMMANUEL: OUTSIDE!

Sunday, October 11th, 10-11:30a.m.

Zabriskie Parking Lot Popup Clinic

Walgreens will come again this year to Immanuel to give flu shots to folks 4 and older. In addition to the regular flu vaccine, they will bring a limited number of high dose vaccine for seniors over the age of 65. We will have a tent set up next to the Zabriskie parking lot -- complete the consent form in your car, then come to the tent for your shot! Bring your insurance card, wear a shirt with ready access to the upper arm, and wear a face mask.

If you want to get your flu shot, please contact Lisa Clausen (Lisa.clausen@verizon.net or 703-629-4814) in advance so that we enough vaccine available. Especially important in this pandemic year!

GET YOUR FLU SHOT



Please remember to:

- Bring your insurance card
- Wear a face mask at all times
- Wear a shirt providing easy access to your upper arm

SAVE THE DATE: October 11th

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, 5p.m.

Zabriskie Parking Lot



Blessing of the Animals

We'll have more details in upcoming emails about the schedule and precautions taken for our Blessing of the Animals on October 11th. For now mark it on your calendars and consider bringing some fluffy friends to be blessed while maybe someone goes pumpkin shopping.

(Also, Father Sam would like

to note that while all animals are absolutely welcome there are some legal restrictions against bringing some kinds of animals into public spaces. If you have a pet elephant, for instance, the state of Virginia requires you to register with a trained team for the protection of the general public. We're not saying *no* elephants. We're just saying if your animal is actually legally required to have guardians we expect you to handle that part of the plan for this service.)



Look for "Christmas Memory Lane" in Our next QUARTERLY issue of *The Almond Tree: A Magazine of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill* published online December 1, 2020!

www.icoh.net

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We're waiting to hear from you



ALL SAINTS DAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

Please submit names of any loved ones lost from November 1, 2019 through this year by noon on Tuesday, October 20th via email at dedications@icoh.net or by phone, leaving a voicemail with Aleta (703) 370-6555.

Story Call for the December Issue of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*
Deadline for submissions: **November 12, 2020**

Christmas Memory Lane

Share a special (or funny) Advent or Christmastide memory at Immanuel -- and feel free to include photos! We'll feature them in the December 1st issue of *The Almond Tree Quarterly*. Deadline for submissions -- including any photos -- is November 12th (earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday). Send your entries to office@icoh.net or mail them to the office. If you don't have a printer, Aleta can scan your photos in the office while you wait.



Screenshot photo of Mary and sheep tussling over the baby Jesus during a pageant courtesy of Tona Bunson, YouTube, ABC News.