



# Immanuel CSI Church

780, Salem Ave, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Parish News - April 2021



**Motto for the Year 2021**

**Year of Healing**

*I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal,  
says the Lord*

*Jeremiah 30:17*

**Worship Service at 9.30 AM**

**Sunday School at 11.30 AM**

[www.immanuelcsichurchnj.com](http://www.immanuelcsichurchnj.com)

**IMMANUEL CSI CHURCH, ELIZABETH, NJ**

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## LETTER FROM THE VICAR

### 'He is not here, He is Risen': Message of Empowerment by the Resurrected Christ'



Dear beloved in Christ,

Greetings, Grace and Peace from the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central truth of the Christian faith. Without it there is no such thing as the Christian faith. The resurrection of Jesus becomes the message which the Church positively affirms, passionately believes, and prophetically proclaims, irrespective of the state of condition of the world. It is the central hub of the gospel which declares God's power and presence. For these Christians, Jesus' resurrection has been the foundational doctrine of the faith. In Paul's words, "... if Christ was not raised, your faith has nothing to it ... If it is for this life only that Christ has given us hope, we of all people are most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:17-19).

Christians give special emphasis heavily upon cross and resurrection seems to be insufficiently considered in our faith journey. The crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ belong together, and that the resurrection is essential to the gospel message. There were several titles given to Jesus to affirm his humanity and divinity. All these New Testament titles express the idea of Jesus not simply as the embodiment of the Messiah, but rather as the unique being in which God chose to commit his love and authority to human and to the world for all time. In this context the title Son is to be understood as relating to the rapport between God and Jesus (through which God's love is able to find its expression), whereas the title Lord denotes the relationship existing between Jesus, human, and more widely the world, through which the former exercises his rule aiming to lead us to deliverance.

John chapter 20 can easily be divided into four post-resurrection narratives: Mary Magdalene's search for and interaction with Jesus (John 20:1,11-18); the discovery of the empty tomb by Peter and "the other disciple" (John 20:3-10); Jesus' appearance to the disciples (John 20:19-23); and the story of the Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29). These, for the most part, are separate stories, only

loosely tied together within the narrative. the Beloved Disciple believes when he sees the grave clothes (John 20:8); Mary believes when she hears Jesus' voice (John 20:16); the disciples believe when they see the risen Jesus (John 20:20); Thomas believes when invited to probe the wounds (John 20:28); and Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who believe without physical evidence (John 20:29). With the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Christian community experienced a new beginning, a new creation. We see this in ties to Genesis: Mary's going to the tomb in darkness (John 20:1) corresponds to the darkness that covered the earth (Gen 1:2); and Christ's breathing on the disciples (John 20:22) reminds the reader of God's breathing life into Adam (Gen 2:7). John 20 also contains parallels to The Apocalypse of Moses. These seem to equate Christ with Adam: Christ is buried in a garden (John 19:41); and Mary is told not to touch him (John 20:17).

This is a new creative act of God, a second creation, rather than a repetition of the first creation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ emerges from a context of conflict, chaos, and confusion. We are navigating similar strange time of chaos, conflicts, and confusion induced by the pandemic, wars, ethnic conflicts, hate crimes, and socio-political issues. The lives of early Christian communities are continually being changed and empowered through the retelling of the Gospel story. A story that didn't end with a closed tomb and a dead body but with an empty tomb and a resurrection. A story that shouldn't leave us unmoved. It should encourage us, as we realize that any struggles, we might have with our faith are no different to those experienced by the early believers. Into our moments of doubt walks Jesus and shows us his wounds and touches our hearts.

May the Good News of Easter, enable, equip, and empower us to roll the stones to provide hope and liberation for many.

Yours in Christ

***Rev. Joby Joy Mullackal***

***Vicar***

## News and Events

**CSI NA Council Tele Prayer:** The CSI NA Council monthly tele prayer was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The CSI NA Women's Fellowship led the prayer.

**Lenten Prayer:** Lenten meditation and prayer service for 2021 is held every Saturday from Feb 20<sup>th</sup> to Mar 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM under the leadership of CSI NA Region I & II Clergy Fellowship. Our Vicar, Rev. Joby Joby delivered the message on Mar 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship Service and Prayer Meetings:** In light of the Corona-virus situation, all Worship service, prayer and fellowship meetings in the month of March were held as video conferences. Worship service will be held in the Matins order of the Church of South India. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's worship will be held in English.

**In Person Worship Services:** Starting April 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Easter Sunday) and until further notice in-person holy communion worship services will be held at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 455 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817 every Sunday at 2pm. The worship services will be conducted in strict compliance with current CDC, state guidelines and the COVID mitigation plan prepared by the Immanuel CSI Church. Worship Services will also be broadcast via. Zoom.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School was held every Sunday after church at 11:30 AM through video conferencing. Starting April 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 and until further notice Sunday School will be held via video conferencing every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

**Bible Study:** Bible study sessions are conducted through video conferencing every Friday at 7:30PM.

**Prayer Meeting:** A weekly prayer meeting is now conducted through video conferencing every Wednesday at 8:00PM.

**Kochamma Farewell:** Our Kochamma, Mrs. Manjula Noone along with children Pranav (Achu) Joby & Paavana (Chinnu) Joby bid us farewell and left for India on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. The women's fellowship conducted a special virtual farewell meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. The church expresses its sincere gratitude to Kochamma

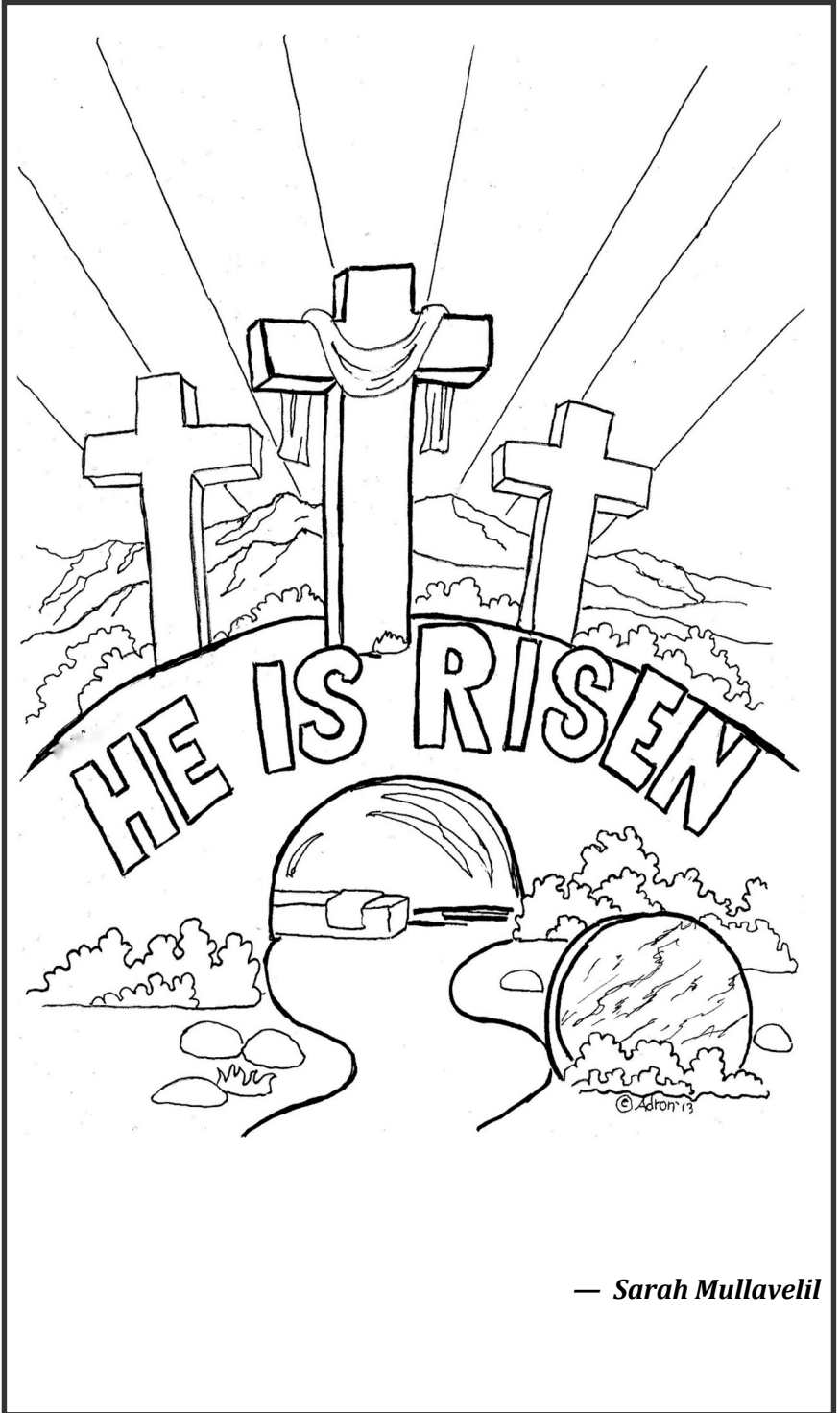
for all her services during her time here and wishes Kochamma and the kids all the very best for the future.

## Cycle of Prayer

- Apr 04 - Apr 10: Mr. John Jacob William and Family
- Apr 11 - Apr 17: Mr. Thomas Mathew and Family
- Apr 18 - Apr 24: Mr. Wilson George Cherian and Family
- Apr 25 - May 01: Mr. Jacob Puthuparampil and Family

## Youth Fellowship

Hi everyone! As we are coming to the end of lent and the wonderful day of Easter, I would like to thank God for the time of prayer, thought, and love this Lent season, and hope we can all continue to take these lessons and growth into our lives. Also, on behalf of our Youth, I would like to share our gratitude and joy in having Kochamma, Achu, and Chinnu here with us these past few years. Kochamma has never failed to make such a comfortable environment for us all, and we have enjoyed learning all her tricks and tips she has shared. The next North American CSI Youth Council prayer meeting will be held on April 3, at 10 am ET, please feel free to reach out to me to get the zoom details for the meeting. In celebration of Easter, here's an Easter-themed coloring for this month to enjoy in your free time:



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— Sarah Mullavelil

## Women's Fellowship

### Managing Money God's Way!

David Lawrence Ramsey - Evangelical Christian, Finance Advisor, Radio Show Host & Author.

It's no secret that the Bible teaches us to live our lives a little differently than the world does. And that's especially true when it comes to money. The Bible says we are to practice contentment and not covet other people's material. (Hebrews 13:5, Exodus 20:17). But advertisers make the life you see in their commercials so appealing. You feel incomplete, so you hand over the cash, hoping to buy that happiness. And when it comes to saving, giving, and debt, it's no different. The world says one thing, but the Bible points to a better way—a way that glorifies God and actually helps us live fuller, more joyful lives (Galatians 6:8).

Remember these three points next time the world tempts you with its ways of handling money.

**The world says:** YOLO! You only live once! Indulge first and save later. **God says:** Pay yourself by saving. *Then* enjoy the fruits of your labor.

According to the Federal Reserve, 39% of Americans don't have the cash on hand to cover a \$400 emergency. And more than half of households couldn't live without their income for just one month. Yikes! Lots of Americans definitely prioritize the present over the future. But Proverbs 21:20 (NIV) explains the value in saving for a rainy day: "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." And even beyond your own household, saving can create financial stability for future generations: "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children" (Proverbs 13:22 NKJV). It's okay to have some fun with your money—as long as you budget for it.

**The world says:** Spend all of your money on *self*. There's no way you'll have anything left over! **God says:** Give 10% off the top and



work toward being able to give even beyond that.

Here's the truth about giving: No one gives accidentally. You have to be intentional about it. That means when you budget your money each month, the first thing you should do is set aside 10% of your income for giving—even before you put anything in savings. That's the instruction in Proverbs 3:9–10 (NKJV): “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” And in Malachi 3:10, God tells us those first fruits should be a tenth of what we produce. Lots of people say they don't have enough money to give. But the problem might be that they don't make it a priority. If giving doesn't happen first, the money will never be there.

**Giving isn't a priority in the world, but it's a priority to God.**

**The world says:** Debt can be a tool to buy things you couldn't otherwise have. **God says:** Debt is bad. There's no such thing as good debt.

Over the past several decades, debt has been marketed so heavily that many people feel like they can't survive without it. In fact, 8 in 10 Americans have debt, and 7 in 10 believe it's necessary. But debt has also forced people to delay or avoid expensive life events like marriage or kids, and it's caused bankruptcy, divorce and a lot of other messes.

Proverbs 22:7 (NIV) actually says, “The borrower is slave to the lender.” And in Romans 13:8, Paul calls us to pay off all our debts so that the only thing we owe each other is love. The Bible doesn't say debt is a sin, but it has nothing good to say about it and definitely discourages it. The risk you accept when taking on debt is too great to make any possible benefits worth it. Take God's word on this one and save up to pay cash for the things other people might borrow for. The Bible is full of wisdom about handling money according to God's teachings, not the worlds. Next time you're wondering what to do with your finances, turn to His word instead of the masses!

## Sunday School Corner

# EMOJI PRAYER REMINDERS



PRAY FOR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO IS SAD AND ASK GOD TO COMFORT THEM.



THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU.



PRAY FOR SOMEONE WHO IS HURT AND ASK GOD TO HELP THEM GET BETTER.



THANK GOD FOR GIVING YOU FRIENDS AND PEOPLE WHO MAKE YOU LAUGH.



ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO MAKES YOU ANGRY.



PRAISE GOD FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD HE HAS MADE ALL AROUND US.



PRAY FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SICK AND ASK GOD TO HELP THEM FEEL BETTER.



THANK GOD FOR GIVING YOU CLOTHES TO WEAR AND A PLACE TO LIVE.

# Worship Schedule April 2021

April	4/1/2021	4/2/2021	4/4/2021	4/11/2021	4/18/2021	4/25/2021
Service	Malayalam	Malayalam	Malayalam	English	Malayalam	English
	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter	1st Sunday after Easter	2nd Sunday after Easter	3rd Sunday after Easter
Theme	Eucharist: The Remembering Jesus	Cross: Death of Death	Resurrection: Celebrating the Joy of Salvation	Encounter with the Risen Lord	Identifying Risen Lord in the Workplace	Community Formation around Resurrection Experience
1st Lesson	Exodus 12: 1-17 Abigail Paulose (DC)	Numbers 21: 1-9 Jayanthi Varghese (DC)	Exodus 14: 5-31 Achamma Varghese (DC)	Genesis 32: 22-32 Neethi Mathew (DC)	Ruth 2: 1-18 Manish George (DC)	Isaiah 25: 1-9 Annette Richie (DC)
Psalm	116 Jibin Thomas	22 Matthew Pothen	118: 14-29 Alona Cherian	40 Sarah Mullavelil	15 Shaun Abraham	126 Alex Mullavelil
2nd Lesson	1 Cor. 11: 23-34 John Mullavelil	1 Cor. 15: 50-58 Mathew Cherian	Col. 3: 1-11 Jeny Eapen	Acts 9: 1-18 Alex Sachariah	Acts 9: 36-43 Neethu Samuel	Acts 4: 32-37 Ciji Thomas
Intercessory	Achan	Achan	Achan	Achan	Achan	Achan
Peace						
Offertory						

## Birthdays

*For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life - Proverbs 9:11*

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ◇ Mr. Mohan Cherian      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April  |
| ◇ Ms. Alona Cherian      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April  |
| ◇ Ms. Jeny Eapen         | 4 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| ◇ Mr. Alex Sachariah     | 6 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| ◇ Mrs. Neethu Samuel     | 14 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mr. Sybil Mathew       | 14 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. Sheba Philip      | 15 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. Rebecca Kuruvilla | 15 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. Ciji Thomas       | 19 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. Regi Das          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April |
| ◇ Mr. John William       | 24 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mr. Christy Thomas     | 27 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mr. Thomas Mathew      | 28 <sup>th</sup> April |

## Anniversaries

*With all humility & gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace Eph 4: 2-3*

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Reji Paalangara  | 14 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Anil Eapen       | 25 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Pratheesh Daniel | 26 <sup>th</sup> April |
| ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Atul Zachariah   | 29 <sup>th</sup> April |

## **Church Calendar 2021**

Church Calendar for 2021 with dates for church specific programs and misc. other events shall be updated in the subsequent newsletters.

If Undelivered, please return to  
Secretary  
Immanuel CSI Church  
780 Salem Ave,  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

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