



Immanuel CSI Church

780, Salem Ave, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Parish News - February 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

IMMANUEL CSI CHURCH, ELIZABETH, NJ

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR



Dear beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we navigate in this strange time of exigency, the lent season has an important place in our spiritual journey. We enter into yet another lent season this month- a time of the amendment, a time of looking back in retrospection and attempt to come closer to God in a more meaningful and effective manner.

Lent is a time of year to remember that God has seen fit to make us not airy spirits but embodied human beings living in a beautiful, material world. The soul fills the body the way fire fills a lump of coal, and what the body learns, the soul absorbs as well. Spiritual disciplines such as fasting are analogous to weight-lifting equipment. One who uses them in a disciplined way will be stronger, not just when he's lifting weights but also for every situation he meets. While some people think of Lent as a time to personally choose something to "give up," the practice of some early Christian communities, from the earliest centuries, is to observe a typical fast. This is not a complete fast, but instead abstaining from meat and dairy- basically a vegan diet. Tertullian (A.D. 160-225) likened it to Daniel's diet in the king's court, when he abstained from meat and rich foods and grew more robust than those who feasted.

Lent is a 40-day preparation for the observance of Christ's passion and Easter. It gives us an annual opportunity to trace the history of redemption. We learn that the number 40 is associated with a trial- a preparation, even an ordeal that leads either to blessing or curse in Noah, Moses, and Jonah's stories. Recapitulating Adam's test and Israel's 40 years of testing, Jesus was taken by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days, fasting instead of following Adam and the wilderness generation of Israelites in demanding the food they craved (Matt. 4:1-4). Resisting Satan's temptation with God's Word, Jesus was the Last Adam and Faithful Israel who fulfilled the trial not only for himself but also for us, as well as bearing the curse for our covenant-breaking.

New disciples in the ancient church were instructed daily in Christian doctrine and practice for the 40 days of Lent, leading to their baptism on Easter Eve. They realized that they were quite literally wrestling with demons from their pagan heritage. Are we representing 'Disciples of Christ' or just superficial converts/ Christian practitioners? On Ash Wednesday, some Christians receive blessed ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross. The traditional words that accompany the imposition of ashes are: 'Remember that you are dust and unto dust, you shall return.' Wearing ashes reminds us of our origins in the earth and our ultimate destiny to return physically to earth.

Many biblical texts mention the practice of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. When Jonah preached in Nineveh, for example, the response of the king was to remove his royal robe, covered himself in sackcloth, and sit in ashes (Jonah 3:6). Similarly, Daniel prays fervently "with fasting and sackcloth and ashes," begging forgiveness for his sin and that of his people (Dan 9:3). In the New Testament, Jesus rebukes the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida when they do not repent after witnessing his mighty works. He declares, "if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes" (Matt 11:21; Luke 10:13). Ashes can also be a symbol of worthlessness, as when Job speaks of the inadequacies of the answers he has received from his friends. "Your maxims are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay," he says (Job 13:12). One other connotation of ashes is that they are the remains of burnt sacrifices offered to God. There are prescriptions in the book of Leviticus for how the ashes from the daily holocausts are to be disposed of (Lev 6:10-11).

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 Jan 7th. Rev. Jacob Philip (Vicar, Redeemer CSI Church, Kansas City) led the prayer.

Worship Service and Prayer Meetings: In light of the Corona-virus situation, until further notice, all Worship service, prayer and fellowship meetings will be held as video conferences. Worship service will be held in the Matins order of the Church of South India. 2nd and 4th Sunday's worship will be held in English. The youth fellowship members will be given the opportunity to undertake more responsibilities during the 4th Sunday worship service.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held every Sunday after church at 11:30 AM through video conferencing.

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.

MKD Bishop Election: Congratulations to Rev Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian on behalf of Immanuel CSI Church, NJ for being elected the 13th Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese.

Cycle of Prayer

- Feb 07 –Feb 13: Mr. Walter Das and Family
- Feb 14 - Feb 20: Mr. Johnson Eapen and Family
- Feb 21 - Feb 27: Mrs. Usha Eapen and Family
- Feb 28 - Mar 06: Mr. Thomas Eapen and Family

Youth Fellowship

Hi everyone! Hope everyone is keeping warm in the snow and keeping safe. I'd like to thank God for getting us through the first month of this year and leading us this far. Monthly prayer meetings are continuing to be held by the North American CSI Youth Council, please contact myself or any youth member for the details to the call. Let's keep the faith going this month with this Bible verse taken from **Isaiah 40:31**

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

— Sarah Mullavelil

Women's Fellowship

Human Family – By Maya Angelou

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.

Some of us are serious,
some thrive on comedy.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women
called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea,
and thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

Sunday School Corner



Books of the Bible

Old Testament - 39 Books

MAJOR PROPHETS (5)

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentation

Ezekiel

Daniel

POETRY (5)

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon
(Songs)

HISTORY (12)

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

LAW (5)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

MINOR PROPHETS (12)

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

New Testament - 27 Books

HISTORY LIFE OF JESUS (4)

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

PAUL'S LETTERS TO INDIVIDUALS (4)

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES (9)

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

HISTORY THE CHURCH (1)

Acts

LETTERS BY OTHERS (9)

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

Worship Schedule February 2021

February	2/7/2021	2/14/2021	2/17/2021	2/21/2021	2/28/2021
Service	Malayalam	English	Malayalam/English	Malayalam	English
	8th Sunday before Easter	7th Sunday before Easter	Ash Wednesday	6th Sunday Before Easter (1st Sunday in Lent)	5th Sunday before Easter (2nd Sunday in Lent)
Theme	The Fallen-ness of Creation	Lent: A time of Reconciliation	Cross: A Call to Self-Denial	Touching the "Untouchable"	Life Saving Faith
1st Lesson	Genesis 3: 1-10 Varughese Mathew (DC)	Genesis 45: 1-15 Abigail Paulose (DC)	Joel 2: 12-20 Jerry Pothen	2 Kings 5: 1-10 Jyothi Manish (DC)	2 Kings 4: 1-7 Elijah Mathew (DC)
Psalm	53 Shaun Abraham	85 Matthew Pothen	32 Jibin Thomas	10: 1-12 Isaac Mathew (DC)	72 Liya Riju
2nd Lesson	Romans 3: 21-26 Rebecca Kuruvilla	Eph. 2: 11-22 Surya Frank	Galatians 2: 15-21 Mathew Cherian	Hebrews 13: 8-17 Sujatha Arikupurath	Acts 5: 12-16 Teena Varghese
Intercessory	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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| ◇ Mrs. Surya Frank | 11 th Feb |
| ◇ Mrs. Reshma Vaishakh | 12 th Feb |
| ◇ Mr. Shane Jacob | 15 th Feb |
| ◇ Mrs. Sujatha Arikupurath | 15 th Feb |
| ◇ Mrs. Nimisha Sugu | 18 th Feb |
| ◇ Mrs. Roseann Jaison | 20 th Feb |
| ◇ Mr. Anil Eapen | 23 rd Feb |

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. Robin Varghese | 22 nd Feb |
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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

To

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