



Immanuel CSI Church

780, Salem Ave, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Parish News - January 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

‘A New Worldview for 2021- ‘Ubuntu’



Dear beloved in Christ,

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

At the outset, I wish you all a meaningful, prosperous, and blessed New Year. The year 2020 was a year of unprecedented pandemic attack and subsequent catastrophe on our life activities. The world is not in a position to wholly comprehend the loss, its long-lasting impact on our economy, and socio-political structures, and on our day-to-day lives, even today. The value of life, the gift of God, has to be received with gratitude and celebrated by admitting that God controls the whole creation. Therefore, the pandemic time has to be viewed as a time of retrospection to look back with gratitude to many who have rendered their services to sustain our lives, especially during this challenging time of exigency. Therefore, let us thank Lord with a heart full of gratitude, renewed commitments, and revived hopes.

I want to propose the traditional African communities' worldview, commonly known as '**ubuntu**' that underlines the mutual cooperation and sharing for co-existence. It represents 'humanity' or is often defined as 'I am because we are.' The 'ubuntu' philosophy believes in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.

Ubuntu can best be described as a philosophy of life, which, in its most fundamental sense, represents personhood, humanity, humaneness, and morality. It is the essence of being human. It describes a pervasive spirit of caring and community, harmony, hospitality, respect, and responsiveness that individuals and groups display for one another. Among its essential values are group solidarity, conformity, compassion, human dignity, and collective unity. A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished when others are tortured or oppressed.

Word of God also affirms the necessity of having a mutual dependent life-style. Throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, we see that God created humans to be relational and live 'in community.' In Genesis 1-2, God as a community of the Trinity creates mankind to live in communion with him and each other. Christ identifies with his disciples as he lives with them in community. Jesus' word in John 15:13, "greater love has no man than this: that he lay down his life for his friends," refers to not only to crucifixion but also to the daily sacrifice of self for others. Ubuntu echoes this spirit and attitude. Ubuntu is a spirituality that enables mutual sharing and satisfaction and is illustrated in the biblical account of the disciples sharing all they had with one another so that no one lacked anything (Acts 4:32-35). The early church attitude and perception of fellowship were centered around 'koinonia,' which is not a self-centered approach, rather a community approach. The shift from 'us' to 'me' is the problem of contemporary society. The new philosophy originated with the globalization process, which holds the idea of the 'survival of the fittest.' Christians must avoid such an 'inward-looking' and 'individualistic' attitude. The church needs to redeem the strong social fabric that Ubuntu offers. We must have a concern for the needs of all, both in proclaiming Christ and providing care.

CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese is observing 2021 as the 'Year of Healing.' May God almighty help us transcend all the barriers and challenges posed by the Coronavirus and return to the regular track of our life.

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 Dec 10th. Rev. Josline P Chacko (Vicar, Toronto CSI Christ Church) led the prayer.

CSI NA Council Choir Retreat: The CSI NA Council conducted a virtual chorister's fellowship retreat on Dec 11th. Rev. Dr. George Pati (Faculty, Valparaiso University, Indiana) delivered the message on the theme "Songs of God, Songs for God".

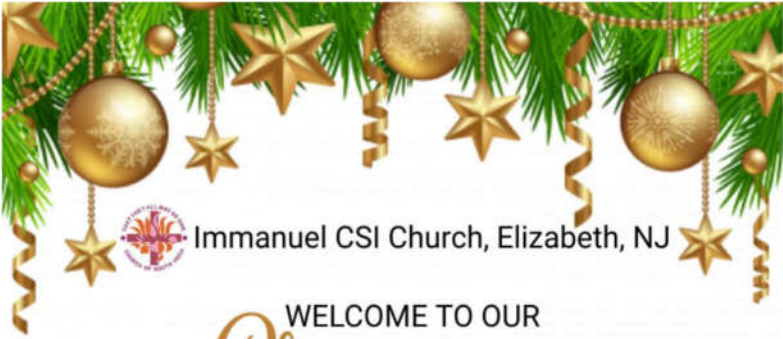
Worship Service and Prayer Meetings: In light of the Corona-virus situation, until further notice, all Worship service, prayer and fellowship meetings will be held as video conferences. Worship service will be held in the Matins order of the Church of South India. 2nd and 4th Sunday's worship will be 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 Saturday at 7:30PM.

Holy Matrimony: Congratulations to Mr. Richie Varghese (brother of Robin Varghese) and Ms. Annette D'Cunha who were united in holy matrimony on December 26th.

Christmas Carol: Our Christmas carol service was conducted virtually on Dec 24th, from 8:00PM onwards. The program was coordinated by Mr. John Abraham (Choir Secretary) and the emceeing was done by Miss. Jenny Eapen. (see banner on the next page...)



Immanuel CSI Church, Elizabeth, NJ

WELCOME TO OUR
Christmas

VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE 2020

Celebrating the birth of our king even during Covid crisis

Christmas Message by Rev Binu Philip (Vicar of CSI Church Mallaserry)

THURSDAY 24TH DEC 2020 8:00 PM ONWARDS

Join us virtually through Zoom Meeting id : 882-6266-8354 - Password : 123456

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We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and safe New Year.

Cycle of Prayer

- Jan. 03 –Jan 09: Mr. John Abraham and Family
- Jan. 10 - Jan. 16: Mr. Mathew Cherian and Family
- Jan 17 - Jan. 23: Mr. Mohan Thomas Cherian and Family
- Jan 24 - Jan. 30: Mr. John Daniel and Family
- Jan 31 - Feb. 06: Mr. Pratheesh Daniel and Family

Youth Fellowship

Hi everyone! I'd like to start off by wishing everyone a very blessed and Happy New Year! With God's guidance, love, and care, we have all made it through the most challenging year of some of our lives. I would like to thank Achen, the committee, and the congregation for the constant support and participation in our past events. Hopefully, this year when we are able to meet again our youth events can get back to normal and we are glad to take any suggestions or support any of you have to offer! Till then, the National CSI Youth Council holds Bible study sessions and other meetings. To get the information for these calls, please reach out to myself or any other Youth member, or refer to the CSI Youth GroupMe. As we start this new year, here's a Bible verse to keep in mind:

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." — Jeremiah 29:11

— Sarah Mullavelil

Women's Fellowship

As a world , we are commencing a new morn after a long roller-coaster ride , that we still are not sure , will end or not. We as a church family have been together in faith during the past months. As we dawn into another year of expectations , blessings, suffering and joy, I believe it is the strength that held us together, it is strength indeed that will enable us to move on with courage in the coming year...

We are in fear , but know how to live fearlessly,

We are in sorrow , but know how to find joy,

We are in desperation , but know how to be hopeful

We are in doubt , but know how to trust and be faithful...

As we enter the year of healing, I urge you to hold on to the Word for all your supplications ...

For it is the lord who restores us to health and heal our wounds...

wish you all a blessed year ahead...

Happy new year 2021...

— Manju Noone

Sunday School Corner

HOW TO PRAY For Kids



Question: What can I pray about?

Answer: ANYTHING! God wants you to talk to Him about everything in your life. Nothing is too big or too small to talk to God about.



Question: When and where should I pray?

Answer: ANYTIME and ANYWHERE! It doesn't matter where you are; you can always talk to God. He is always with you.



Question: How long should my prayer last?

Answer: You can pray for one second or for hours. God is always listening! He loves for you to talk to Him.



Question: Can I pray with my friends?

Answer: ABSOLUTELY! Praying with your friends will make your faith and your friendships stronger.



Question: Should I always fold my hands?

Answer: Folding your hands and closing your eyes may help you to concentrate on your prayer, but you don't have to. You can talk to God while riding your bike or just sitting quietly.



Question: Should I pray out loud?

Answer: God hears you whether you pray out loud or silently. Sometimes praying out loud helps you to stay focused on your prayer. Praying silently can be done wherever you are. God hears your prayers no matter how you say them!

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Worship Schedule January 2021

January	1/3/2021	1/10/2021	1/17/2021	1/24/2021	1/31/2021
Service	Malayalam	English	Malayalam	English	Malayalam
	2nd Sunday after Christmas	1st Sunday after Epiphany	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	9th Sunday before Easter
Theme	Revelation for Liberation	Live Worthy of Your Calling	One Lord, One Baptism	Unity for Justice and Peace (Ecumenical)	The Goodness of Creation
1st Lesson	Isaiah 61: 1-11 DC Member	Proverbs 20: 1-11 DC Member	Numbers 11: 23-30 DC Member	Ezekiel 37: 15-28 DC Member	Genesis 1: 24-31 DC Member
Psalm	76 Pranav Joby	14 Alex Mullavelil	23 Emily Samuel	4 Shaun Abraham	104: 1-13 Sarah Mullavelil
2nd Lesson	Revelations 5: 1-10 John Mullavelil	Romans 6: 12-21 Lyn Samuel	1 Cor. 10: 1- 4 Manju Noone	Philipians 4: 8-20 Mathew Cherian	Ephesians 1: 3-14 Ciji Thomas
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

- ◇ Mr. Alex Mullavelil 7th Jan
- ◇ Mrs. Jaya Johnson 21st Jan
- ◇ Ms. Ashley Samuel 22nd Jan

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

- ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Lyn Samuel 6th Jan
- ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Charles Frank 7th Jan
- ◇ Mrs. & Mr. Thomas Mathew 31st Jan

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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