



# Immanuel CSI Church

780, Salem Ave, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208

Parish News - March 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

### 'Hosanna to Crucifixion: Are we the fickle Crowds?'



Dear beloved in Christ,

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

As we continue to navigate our spiritual life through this Lenten season, we need to seriously introspect our lives, whether our life conforms with the gospel message or not? Many times, we don't have a consistent viewpoint or perspective concerning our faith in Christ. We may waver in between two diametrically opposite poles of views. We usually take stands with the majority, ever ready to move away from the truth and good faith. To be with the majority is the easiest way of footing in issues and troubles. Therefore, I would like to read us along with the role of the 'crowd' in the gospels. In the four Gospels, a group of people designated 'the crowd (s)' plays a vital role in the events leading up to Jesus' death: the crowds shout Hosanna! on Jesus' royal entry to the holy city, but a little handful of days later the crowd's cry crucify. It is easy to assume that the same narrative character performs both acts; after all, they are both 'crowds.'

Throughout the four Gospels, the 'crowd(s)' plays an essential role in Jesus' ministry, alongside the disciples and the religious authorities from whom they are usually differentiated. Although they are not a single character—that is, 'the crowd' is undoubtedly not always composed of precisely the same people from scene to scene—the crowds play a relatively consistent role at different stages of the Gospel narratives. During Jesus' Galilean ministry, which in John's gospel account, includes regular visits to Jerusalem, the crowds are curious and most receptive to Jesus' ministry of healing and exorcism, but they are also ambivalent; they sometimes misunderstand his teaching or wonder at his identity.

Although Jesus' ministry largely centers in Galilee and its towns, the Gospel narratives indicate that Jesus and his disciples interact with Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans from Galilee, the Judean countryside, the region of Gerasa across the Sea of Galilee, the multiethnic regions of Tyre and Sidon, areas of Capernaum, which lay on an

important trade route (see Matt 4:25; Mark 3:7-8; Luke 6:17; John 3:22; 4:3-5, 43-46; 6:1, 16-17). At Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a crowd symbolically greets Jesus as the king entering the holy city. During the rest of the passion, the group designated 'the crowd' is mostly absent until the scene at which a crowd demands that Pilate crucify Jesus. Though they constantly followed Jesus, witnessed all his miracles, and listened to his moral-ethical teachings, they continue to be an unreliable group. Sometimes the Gospel narrators identified this crowd as Jesus's disciples, not the twelve but a more extensive crowd follows Jesus in the posture of discipleship. Are we like this fickle crowd, received blessings and healings, witnessed Jesus' miracles, and still divided on who Jesus is (John 7:12-13;31; 40-43)?

When the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, offers a gathered crowd the choice between Barabbas and Jesus, 'the crowd' showed their real face and cries for the death of the man they have formerly acclaimed. They didn't embrace Christ as the promised Messiah, and they accepted Barabbas, a leader with a violent mode of war strategy, unlike the nonviolent method of Jesus, as their hero. The fickle crowd was not consistent in their perspectives, attitudes, and opinion. They were unstable and shifted their loyalty to Barabbas. Therefore, this demonstrates the falling of 'the crowd' into the steps with their leaders and their rejection of Jesus. Let us understand the truth, avoid falling on with the majority, and walk with Christ our firm, right, and mostly odd perspectives. May God help us be different for a different ministry, not to crucify but to glorify His name.

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 Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The newly consecrated Bishop of Madhya Kerala Diocese, Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian was the chief guest and delivered the message.

**Lenten Prayer:** A special Lenten meditation and prayer service for 2021 is held every Saturday from Feb 20 to Mar 27 at 7:30PM under the leadership of CSI NA Region I & II Clergy Fellowship. The service on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, was hosted virtually by our church, with our members led by Vicar Rev. Joby Joy conducted different parts of the service.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's worship will be held in English. The youth fellowship members will be given the opportunity to undertake more responsibilities during the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship service.

**Ash Wednesday Service:** Ash Wednesday service was conducted virtually on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8PM. Mr. Jose R Chennerkara (Final Year BD Student, UTC Bangalore) delivered the sermon.

**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.

**Annual GB:** The annual General Body meeting of the church was held on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. New office bearers and committee members for 2021 were chosen as follows:

- Vice President: Mr. Johnson Eapen
- Secretary: Mr. John Sachariah
- Treasurer: Mr. John Mullavelil

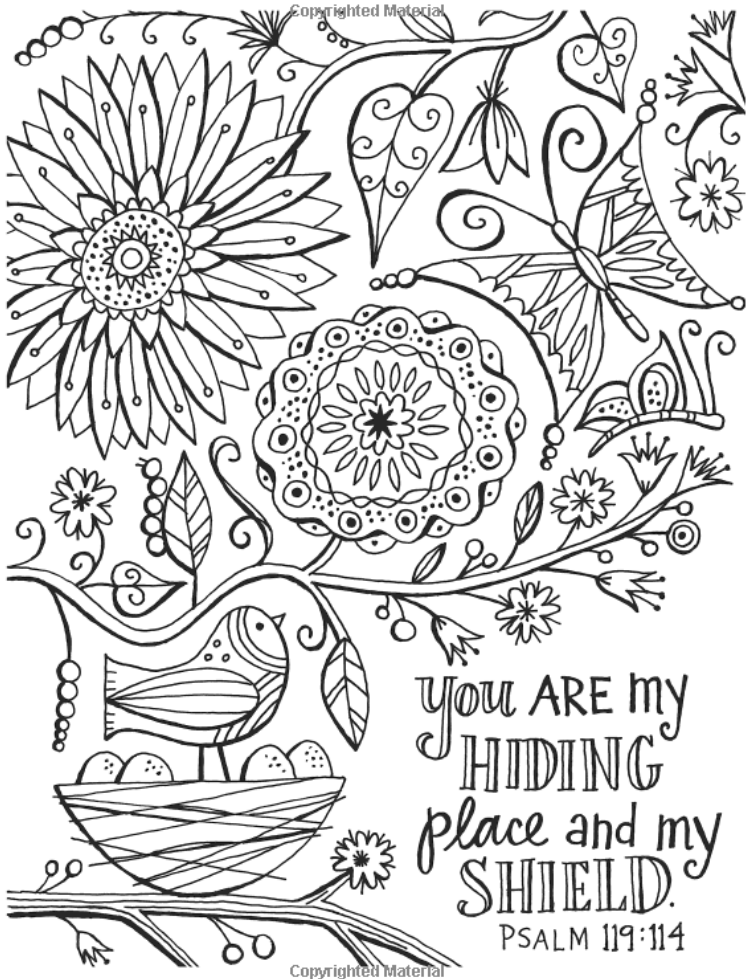
- Committee Members:
  - Mr. Jerry Pothen
  - Mr. Robin Varghese
  - Mrs. Ciji Thomas
  - Mrs. Praisya Abraham
  - Mr. Sybil Mathew
- CSI NA Council Representatives:
  - Mr. John Sachariah
  - Mr. Lyn Samuel
- ECFNJ Representatives:
  - Mrs. Mary Sachariah
  - Mr. Pratheesh Daniel
- Auditor: Mr. John Abraham

## Cycle of Prayer

- Feb 28 - Mar 06: Mr. Thomas Eapen and Family
- Mar 07 - Mar 13: Mr. Anil Thomas Eapen and Family
- Mar 14 - Mar 20: Mr. John Mullavelil and Family
- Mar 21 - Mar 27: Mr. Reji Paalangara and Family
- Mar 28 - Apr 03: Mr. John Sachariah and Family

## Youth Fellowship

Hi everybody! It's crazy to think that it's been an entire year since this pandemic has taken over, but it's only through God's grace that we all continue to remain safe and healthy. For this month, if anyone would like to attend any future prayer meetings or Youth Leadership sessions held by the North American CSI Youth Council, please reach out to us for the details of the call. Here's a coloring page for anyone of any age to wind down and enjoy this month



— Sarah Mullavelil

## Women's Fellowship

### WOMEN'S DAY

The month of March brings to mind spring (finally!) and Women's Day. The world celebrates Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>...a time to think of the origins of such a day, a time to celebrate all women and a time to honor the women in our lives who have shaped our lives!

Women's Day celebrations began in different parts of the world at the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century. In United States on May 3, 1908, in Germany on March 8, 1914, in France on March 18, 1911, in Russia on March 8, 1913, the list goes on... The inspiration for such celebrations came from women who came together to fight for worthy causes, in US and Europe for economic and political equality and women's rights and in Russia to protest rising food prices and deteriorating living conditions. In 1975 United Nations celebrated International Women's Day for the first time giving this day an international aura. Unlike the rest of the world, India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birthday as National Women's Day every year on February 13.

More than a century after its beginnings, Women's Day is still celebrated across the world on March 8<sup>th</sup>, reminding us that the fights for basic necessities of life, equality, education, respect and freedom are still a mirage for most women, children and communities all over the world. As we approach March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, let us remember and draw strength from the women who have led the world by their lives, who inspire us every day to do more, be better...Virgin Mary, Mother Theresa, Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, Florence Nightingale, Saalumurada Thimmakka, Laxmi Agarwal, Indira Gandhi, Greta Thunburg...the list goes on.

Let us also remember the women in our lives who have shaped each of us, made us who we are, who inspire and encourage us every day. For me it is my mother whose compassion and kindness for everyone around her, my mother in law whose perseverance and fighting spirit in the face of adversities and my grandmother whose



wisdom and quiet strength that inspire me to be better every day.  
Happy Women's Day to all!

— *Sujatha Arikupurath*

# Sunday School Corner

The calendar is a winding path of 40 days, starting from Day 1 (Ash Wednesday) and ending at Day 40 (Easter Sunday). Key events are marked:

- Day 1: ASH WEDNESDAY
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4: 1ST SUNDAY
- Day 5
- Day 6
- Day 7
- Day 8
- Day 9
- Day 10
- Day 11: 2ND SUNDAY
- Day 12
- Day 13
- Day 14
- Day 15
- Day 16: 3RD SUNDAY
- Day 17
- Day 18
- Day 19
- Day 20
- Day 21
- Day 22
- Day 23: 4TH SUNDAY
- Day 24
- Day 25
- Day 26
- Day 27
- Day 28: 5TH SUNDAY
- Day 29
- Day 30
- Day 31
- Day 32
- Day 33
- Day 34: PALM SUNDAY
- Day 35
- Day 36
- Day 37
- Day 38: HOLY THURSDAY
- Day 39: GOOD FRIDAY
- Day 40: HOLY SATURDAY
- Day 40: EASTER SUNDAY !!

Large text in the center: **40 DAYS OF LENT**

# Worship Schedule March 2021

March	3/7/2021	3/14/2021	3/21/2021	3/28/2021
Service	Malayalam 4th Sunday before Easter (3rd Sunday in Lent)	English 3rd Sunday before Easter (4th Sunday in Lent)	Malayalam Passion Sunday 2nd Sunday before Easter (5th Sunday in Lent)	English Palm Sunday Sunday before Easter
Theme	Persistence in Prayer	True Worship that Liberates	Cross: A new Vision of the Messianic Age	Hosanna: New King in the Temple
1st Lesson	2 Kings 20: 1-11 Jayanthi Varghese (DC)	Exodus 3: 11-18 Elijah Mathew (DC)	Duet. 18: 15-22 Rony Rajan (DC)	Isaiah 56: 1-8 Richie Varghese (DC)
Psalms	116 Jiya Thomas	137 Emily Samuel	73 Pranav Joby	24 Daniel Mullavelil
2nd Lesson	1 Thess. 5: 12-22 Shameetha Jacob	Acts 16: 25-34 Praisyy John	2 Cor. 1: 3-11 Seema Cherian	1 Cor. 3: 16-23 Manjula Noone
Intercessory	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*

◇ Mrs. Aneetta Varkey	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Miss. Jiya Thomas	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Sajin Cherian	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Miss Paavana Joby	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Miss Emily Samuel	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Emil Paalangara	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Stanly Thomas	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Atul Zachariah	18 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mrs. Manju Noone	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Cherian Mullavelil	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mr. Mary Mullavelil	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
◇ Mrs. Susan Ninan	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar

## 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. Jacob Puthuparambil	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar
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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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