

**Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

December 6, 2020



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Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706
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Sunday Schedule:
Online Worship 10:00AM
Outdoor Worship 11:30AM
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm via Zoom Refuge
For Junior High & High School
Call church office for contact information.

Welcome! Wherever you are on-line, we welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are united as a people of God in worship as a Body of Christ, the Church. We wish we could be together physically in our beautiful sanctuary, but the pandemic has forced us to be creative as our team has gone to great lengths to bring us together, technologically. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Order of Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Bells *Calling the community of Easton to worship*

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus, we invite you into our time of worship, and we thank you for the newness of life that only You can give. Give us a new heart and desire for you, that we may bring delight to You and be a powerful and loving witness to our world. Create in us a new heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within us. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand as you are able

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. He has loosed our bonds of sin and death, and has made us his children — heirs of eternal life. For freedom Christ has set us free, let us not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

All: Amen

Please be seated

Prayer of The Day

God of light and life, through your most Holy Spirit, illumine our lives with your grace so that we may be ready for the coming of your Son. Grant that we may bear the light of your love to the world in need, that all may know of your justice and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

1Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become

level, and the rough places a plain. 5Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 85

1LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. 3You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. 4Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. 5Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? 6Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? 7Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. 8Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

8But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come

to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. 11Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. 14Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" 4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

The Children's Sermon

Pastor Taylor

Please stand as you are able for the confession of the Apostles Creed.

Confession of Faith

Leader: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Offerings may be delivered to the church via mail or drop off. Donations are accepted online at our website: immanueleaston.com.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Please be seated.

Announcements

Dismissal

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God! (Sung) Amen, Amen, Amen!

Postlude

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Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

Prayer Focus for the Week of 12-6-2020: Focus on the faith that heals. Acts 3:16 NIV.

"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see."

Altar Flowers: If you would like to put flowers on the Altar for Sunday Morning Worship in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office for your date of choice. Flowers may be delivered to the church by you or your florist and may be picked up for your enjoyment following the recording of the worship service.

Easton Community Men's Bible Study at the CPDES Hall has been put on hold until further notice.

Pastor Taylor will be leading an outdoor Worship Service at 11:30AM on Sunday mornings. This service will not have microphones or be recorded for online viewing. We will be using the Service of the Word, which will be shorter than our recorded Worship Service yet offer a time of reading scripture and meditation as well as a time to be together in person for worship and communion. Please govern yourself according to all pandemic safety precautions.

The Easton Food Distribution will be tomorrow! If you would like to help distribute food join us at Easton Presbyterian Church at **Noon**. Please bring your own water bottle and wear close toed shoes.

“Our Daily Bread” pocket size devotionals for December through January are available in the narthex under the gold bulletin board. If you would like a book sent to you, please call Victoria at 237-7909 and she will mail one to you.

The December Chimes Deadline will be December 16th. If you would like something published in the Chimes, please email: immanueleaston@sbcglobal.net or get it to the church office by that day.

Amazon Smiles Program offers portions of your purchases donated to Immanuel. When you shop on Amazon instead of going to amazon.com go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2737287> and our church will receive a small percent of your purchase.

Prayers of the church

For Christ’s Church: *Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.*

Members and their families serving in the military: Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Scott Linger, Matt Ward, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Olga Hansen, Marilyn Iversen, Art & Marian Olesen, Phyllis Petersen, & Howard Nielsen.

Those in need of healing: **Those in need of healing** Marilyn Bell, Sandy Britter, Luanne Byrd, Eli Cisneros, Gaye Cissel, Geoff Cooper, Pastor Gary Gould, Dennis Haugh, Jenny Lee Hodges, Judy Hooper, Florence Johnston, Sam Navaro, Gil Nagel, Glenn & Marilyn Nielsen, The Perez Family, Sr., Christie Pettitt, Chuck Phillips, Sr., Virginia Pilegard, Aslak Syse, Timm Trickett, Joe Wozniczka & Joni Zingarelli.

For those morning the loss of loved ones: The family of Margie Zingarelli, *Betty Jensen’s sister*

For people dealing with loneliness and depression caused by these pandemic precautions.

For those battling the Coronavirus and the health care providers tending to those in need.