

# Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

*Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)*

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1888

January 1, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.

Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

Office: (559)237-7909

Immanueleaston.com

[office@immanueleaston.com](mailto:office@immanueleaston.com)

Pastor Taylor Stempniak: [ptmarie96@gmail.com](mailto:ptmarie96@gmail.com)

---

Sunday Schedule:

Worship 10:30am

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 1, 2023

*Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)*

**Welcome!** Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or joining us in our beautiful sanctuary, 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. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Immanuel follows the current Centers for Disease Control Guidelines during the pandemic. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Immanuel is aligned with the North American Lutheran Church** whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday and other special occasions of the church year. If you have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor following the service or check the box on the worship registration form to schedule an appointment. Only non-alcoholic wine is used in communion at Immanuel.

**Moms and Dads**, we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

**To learn more about Immanuel** please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering bag as you exit the sanctuary or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

**Restroom facilities** are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

**Join us** outdoors immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

# Order of Worship

**Prelude**

Laurel Jacobsen

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

**Welcome**      Pastor Taylor Stempniak

## **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.

**All: 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.

**All: 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by

his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## Opening Hymn

### Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep  
The angels keep their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth

© Words: Public DomainMusic: Public DomainFor use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)  
CCLI License # 1825563

## Prayer of The Day

Steadfast God, your will for all creation has been revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that, having been shown your glory and received your grace, we may also be obedient to your will; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Reading of the Word

*Wisdom is a gift of the Spirit of God. It is not something we learn in a classroom or technically even in the school of hard knocks, rather it is a quality bestowed upon the faithful by a loving Lord who desires his people would know his will and his holy Word. Jesus, at the young age of 12, exhibited this gift of wisdom as he discussed the Scriptures with the teachers in the Temple.*

## The First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior 9in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Reader: The word of the Lord

## All: Thanks be to God

**Psalm 148 (Congregation, please read the bold print verses responsively)**

1Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**2Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

3Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**4Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

5Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

**6He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

7Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**8fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

9Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**10Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

11Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**12Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

13Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**14He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

## **The Second Reading**

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

10It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." 13And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." 14Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## **The Gospel**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St Matthew the second chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

13Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." 16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the

prophet Jeremiah: 18"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." 19When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. 21Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Children are invited up to the altar.*

**The Children's Message**

Jennifer Hartwig

**Today's Homily**

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Canticle of the Turning**

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

***Refrain***

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
To the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
For the world is about to turn.

***Refrain***

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.**

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
Not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
For the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn. ***Refrain***

Though the nations rage from age to age,  
We remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
Is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. ***Refrain***

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or  
valid license from copyright administrator. Duplication permitted through our copyright license holder, One License



## **Confession of Faith**

Pastor: 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*

Pastor: Peace be with you

**All: And also with you**

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another.

**Offerings may be placed in the red offering bags on each corner.**

## **Offertory Response**

**“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **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**

## **Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them to the Lord**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All: It is right to give him thanks praise.**

### **Communion Preface**

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **Words of Institution**

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

### **Communion Distribution**

*Communion will be served this week by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers, as you come to the altar the host will be dipped in the non-alcoholic wine and served to you by Pastor or a Deacon. Immanuel welcomes you to communion this morning.*

### **Post Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**ALL: Amen**

### **Post Communion Canticle                    “Thank the Lord”**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;  
Tell everyone what he has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord  
Rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He recalls his promises and  
Leads his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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!**

**Closing Hymn**

**Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne**

Thou didst leave Thy throne  
And Thy kingly crown  
When Thou camest to earth for me  
But in Bethlehem's home  
There was found no room  
For Thy holy nativity  
O come to my heart Lord Jesus  
There is room in my heart for Thee

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree  
But of lowly birth cam'st Thou Lord on earth  
And in great humility  
O come to my heart Lord Jesus  
There is room in my heart for Thee

The foxes found rest  
And the birds had their nest  
In the shade of the cedar tree  
But Thy couch was the sod  
O Thou Son of God  
In the deserts of Galilee  
O come to my heart Lord Jesus  
There is room in my heart for Thee

Thou camest O Lord with the living word  
That should set Thy children free  
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn  
They bore Thee to Calvary O come to my heart Lord Jesus  
Thy cross is my only plea

When heaven's arches shall ring  
And her choirs shall sing at Thy coming to victory  
Let Thy voice call me home saying 'Yet there is room  
There is room at My side for thee '  
And my heart shall rejoice Lord Jesus  
When Thou comest and callest for me

CCLI Song # 2689067 Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott Public Domain  
For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1825563

## **Dismissal**

*P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!*

**C. Thanks be to God! Amen, Amen, Amen**

## **Postlude**

---

Today's service is reprinted by permission under our Church Copyright License through CCLI  
Sundays and Seasons v.20210119.1257 Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
One License Copyright number 730424-A

# Announcements & Opportunities to Serve

**Prayer Focus for the week: on new beginnings. Isaiah 43:19 NIV.** See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

**Women of Hope Monthly Bible Study meets this Tuesday evening at 7:00PM in Grace Hall. We will be talking about Matthew 7:13-14 and John 10:1-10.** Join us for fun, Bible discussion about Jesus being the gate for us, the sheep.

**Annual Reports:** the following leaders of events are asked to submit a brief recap of the year's activities to share with our members in our annual report. Submissions requested to the church office via email: [office@immanueleaston.com](mailto:office@immanueleaston.com) by **January 10th, 2023.**

**Leaders of:** Audit Committee, Blood Drive, Caruthers Fair, Congregational President, Deacons, FCA Lunch Ministry, Financial Secretary, Library, Music Committee, Friendsgiving and Christmas Lunch Program, Nominating Committee, Quilter/Crafter, Small Group Ministry, Sunday School, Treasurer, Trustee, Ummata Events, Women's Ministry President, Women's Ministry Treasurer, Any Other Programs happening at Immanuel that aren't listed please submit articles. Thank you all for your help.

**Easton Food Distribution is at noon this Friday,** at Easton Presbyterian Church, volunteers please dress warm, wear close toed shoes and bring your own water.

**Volunteer opportunities for 2023 Sundays:** Altar Flowers, Scripture Readers, Fellowship Servers: If you would like to be part of the worship experience at Immanuel on Sundays there are opportunities to place flowers on the altar, or read scriptures during worship or serve refreshments after church, sign up on the sign-up sheets on the blue bulletin board Please call the church office for more information.

**Save the Date: January 26th for the next Fellowship Luncheon.** If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Gina Cogan today.

**Sunday School for all ages resumes on January 15th at 9:30AM in Grace Hall!**

**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:** Erica Botello, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

**Those unable to travel about:** Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, Christie Pettitt & Bonnie Terkelsen.

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Lisa Anderson, Joanie Ascencio, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Mim Gould, Fran Hansen, Al & Judy Hooper, Donna Kennedy, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Velia Miranda, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, John Reynolds, Kenneth Selzer, Rowena Shaterian, Richard Smith, Gary Terkelsen, & Keitt Wilson.

**For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.**

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____	Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Guest <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Time or Regular Attender <input type="checkbox"/> Member    I came as a guest of _____	
Home Congregation _____	

## This Week at Immanuel

### **Today:**

10:30AM Worship & Communion

11:30AM Fellowship Time

### **Monday:**

7:00PM NA in Grace Hall

### **Tuesday**

7:00PM Women of Hope Bible Study in GH

### **Wednesday**

Music Meeting

### **Thursday**

6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall

11:00AM Women's Bible Study in library

### **Friday:**

12:00PM Easton Food Distribution at EPC

### **Next Sunday:**

10:30AM Worship & Communion

11:30AM Fellowship Outside

11:45AM Congregational Prayer in Sanctuary

### **Worship Assistants This Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Lee Terkelsen, John Jensen, Victoria Salwasser

**Scripture Reader:** Gina Cogan

**Fellowship Time:** Gay Cissel and Friends

**Council Lock Up in January:** Gina Cogan

### **Worship Assistants Next Week:**

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Lee Terkelsen, Jim Hansen, Victoria Salwasser

**Scripture Reader:** Gina Cogan

**Fellowship Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Sign up to read scripture on the blue bulletin*

Please  check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

I want to learn more about faith.

I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")

I am receiving communion today

I want to speak with the parish nurse

I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor

I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_

I have hymn suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to learn more about baptism

I want to become a member of Immanuel

I want a visit from the visitation pastor

I want to speak with the pastor