

# WELCOME TO IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF  
JESUS CHRIST SINCE 1888

JANUARY 14, 2024



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Easton (Fresno), CA. 93706

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Sunday Schedule:  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am

**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. 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 a member of the North American Lutheran Church** whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

**Holy Communion** is usually celebrated every Sunday and other special occasions of the church year. This morning our Pastor is away at a conference so communion will not be served today. Communion will be served next Sunday. 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 note that on the worship registration slip at the back of the bulletin and Pastor will contact you as soon as possible 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

**Ring the Bell** *Calling the community of Easton to worship*

**Welcome**

Deacons

**Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please Stand as you are able*

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

**All: Amen.**

Deacon: 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**

Deacon: 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.**

Deacon: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Opening Hymn**

**“There Is One Reason”**

*Verse 1*

There is one reason why we're gathered here  
Your love is causing us to sing  
All of Your people through Your Son draw near  
Sinners before their holy King  
The church of God bought by blood

*Chorus 1*

We love You Father  
God of all our God forever  
We praise You Jesus  
Christ our Lord the Son our Savior  
We're here together  
In Your Holy Spirit gathered for Your glory

*Verse 2*

There's a foundation that we're building on  
Rooted in Jesus Christ alone  
Every believer firmly fixed upon  
Our everlasting cornerstone  
The church of God built by love

*Chorus 1*

We love You Father  
God of all our God forever  
We praise You Jesus  
Christ our Lord the Son our Savior  
We're here together  
In Your Holy Spirit gathered for Your glory

*Bridge*

One body one baptism  
One hope to which we have been called  
One faith one Lord one Spirit  
One sov'reign ruler over all

One body one baptism  
One hope to which we have been called  
One faith one Lord one Spirit  
One sov'reign ruler over all

*Chorus 2*

We love You Father  
We praise You Jesus  
We're here together  
For Your glory

*Chorus 1*

We love You Father  
God of all our God forever  
We praise You Jesus  
Christ our Lord the Son our Savior  
We're here together  
In Your Holy Spirit gathered for Your glory

**Apostolic Greeting** (2 Corinthians 13:14)

D: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

**Prayer of The Day**

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Reading of the Word**

**Genesis 1:1-5**

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life. 1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup>**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## **The Second Reading**

**Acts 19:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to

believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.”<sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

**The Gospel**

**Mark 1:4-11**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel, according to Mark the first chapter.

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

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.”9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

D: The Gospel of the Lord

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



*You may be seated.*

**Homily**

Written by Pastor Taylor Stempniak  
Read by Daniel Hartwig

*Please stand for the hymn of the day.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**“Baptized In Water”**

Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King  
Heirs of salvation trusting His promise  
Faithfully now God's praise we sing

*Verse 2*

Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King  
One with His rising freed and forgiven  
Thankfully now God's praise we sing

*Verse 3*

Baptized in water sealed by the Spirit  
Marked with the sign of Christ our King  
Born of one Father we are His children  
Joyfully now God's praise we sing

CCLI Song # 2160232 Jeffrey Rickard | Michael Saward Words: 1982 Michael Saward - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions); Music: 1994 Selah Publishing Company, Inc. For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1825563

**Confession of Faith**

Deacon: 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.**

Deacon: Peace be with you

**All: And also with you**

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

*Please be seated*

### **Offering**

*Offerings may be placed in the plate as it is passes along with the worship registration slip from the back of the bulletin. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.*

### **Offertory Response**

#### **“Praise God From Who 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

Deacon: 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

*Please repeat the names of those we pray for this week.*

D.: Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**ALL: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Benediction

Deacon: 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 “ Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”**

*Lyrics are found on page #559 of the Lutheran Book of Worship located in the pew rack.*

**Dismissal**

D. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

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

**Postlude**

Laurel Jacobsen

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Flowers on the Altar** are presented for glory and honor to God from the Salwasser Family.

**Prayer focus this week on** the new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

**Immanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28th following worship.**

**The next Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive will be on January 28th from 9:00-12:00PM.** Please sign up just for record, on the Gold Bulletin board if you plan to donate. No appointments are necessary. Come when you can and be sure to eat a healthy breakfast and drink lots of water the day before and that day of donation. You may also sign up online at this link:

<https://signup.com/go/OPmMLcc>

**The Fellowship Luncheons are scheduled for the 4th Thursday** of most months. Save those dates on your 2024 calendars. This month we will gather on January **25th** at noon in the Social Hall. The Sign-up sheet is really out there today! Please invite your friends to join us for a special meal.

**Weekly Bible Study:** **The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will not** meet this week and will resume on January 23rd at 9:00AM in church library. Thursday Men's Bible Study will at 6:00AM in Social Hall. Invite your friends, we are called to make Christ known.

**SIGN UP TODAY! Our Mission District's Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:30 am at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church** in San Jose, and **EVERYONE** is invited to attend to get updates about regional events and national news. There will be special guest speakers from the NALC Stewardship Committee. Check out the January Chimes for more information.

**Save the Date, February 29th for the congregational Birthday Dinner to celebrate our Pastor's 7th actual on the day birthday!** The party will start at 6:00PM in our Social Hall. If you would like to help with the party planning, please see Mark Salwasser.

**The opportunities to share your gifts and talents with us on Sundays are diverse and plentiful.** If you would like to read the lessons, place fresh flowers on the altar, serve refreshments after church, work on the tech table, or help with altar ware we would appreciate your help. Please check out the Gold Bulletin board after church today and if you have any questions please find Pastor or one of our ushers after worship or call the church office tomorrow morning.

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sew Caring Day yesterday!** Great projects were made for those in need.

**Final Deadline for the Annual Report contributions is this Tuesday at 8:00AM. Reports will be available on**

**Prayers for 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, Connor Mannix, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

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

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Bobbie Beshears, Fred Bologna, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Amanda Garcia, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Josh Hammers, Jim Hansen, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Marcus Miranda, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Pastor Amy Schifren, Rebecca Stempniak, & Brenda Waite, Keitt Wilson.

**For those morning the loss of loved ones.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

1st Time Guest     2nd Time or Regular Attender     Member    I came as a guest of \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

## This Week at Immanuel

### **Today:**

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages  
10:30AM Worship & Communion  
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside  
11:45AM Congregational Prayer in Sanctuary

### **Monday:**

7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

### **Tuesday**

8:00AM Final Annual Report Deadline

### **Wednesday**

12:25PM FCA Lunch

### **Thursday**

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

### **Friday**

### **Next Sunday:**

9:30AM Sunday School for all ages in Grace Hall  
10:30AM Worship & Communion  
11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside

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

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Allys, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Reader:** Ericka Gardner

**Fellowship Servers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Lock Up for January:** Allyson Nielsen

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

**Ushers:** Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

**Greeters:** All of Immanuel

**Sound & Technology:** Allys, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship Servers:** \_\_\_\_\_



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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about faith.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to learn more about baptism        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes") | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to become a member of Immanuel     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am receiving communion today                          | <input type="checkbox"/> I want a visit from the visitation pastor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the parish nurse                   | <input type="checkbox"/> I want to speak with the pastor           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a prayer request: _____                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have hymn suggestions: _____                          |  |