



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:00am

Welcome to this service of worship. We are glad you are here whether it is in person or online. Children are welcome for all aspects of our worship service and church life. To aid parents and children attending in person, children's bulletins and activity bags are available from the ushers. A "Fidgety Friends" room is available upstairs behind the sanctuary if children become restless and parents would like a comfortable place to continue to participate in worship.

### Mission Statement

L- Loving

I- Inclusive

F- Family of Faith

E- Empowering People in Christ

-seeking justice

-loving kindness

-walking humbly (Micah 6:8)

We are a certified PCUSA Earth Care Congregation:

- Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.
- Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing creation.
- Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all of creation.
- Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

# Celebration of Worship

Epiphany Observance

10:00am

January 7, 2024

## We Gather in Worship

### Greeting and Announcements

*[Please note your nearest exit. Silence your cell phones. Restrooms are available behind the sanctuary in the narthex. Remember to add your prayer requests on the sheets provided for inclusion in the Prayers of the People or online by scanning the QR code here.]*



### Centering Words

*Beloved Jesus, may we have the faith and insight of the Wise Ones, who, when faced with an ancient hope of a foreign people and the appearance of a remarkable star, grasped the connection, and went and followed that star. We stand now at the border of a new year, which is to us like an unknown country. We don't know what we will experience as we traverse it; we don't know what obstacles will lie across our path. Lead us, like the Wise Ones, on a quest of faithfulness and worship, of hopefulness and giving, and always unto Yourself. Amen.*

Prelude

We Three Kings  
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

Kevin McChesney

### \*Call to Worship

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,  
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

\* Hymn (GTG) No. 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Come, journey toward the God who journeys to meet you. Let go of the burdens you cannot carry for that journey, and be guided by God's grace once more.

## Prayer of Confession

**We confess, Guiding God, that we are not always adventurous people. We follow expectations, and demands, and wealth more than we follow those things that cannot be measured: the stirring of your Spirit within us, the nudging of stars and visions and dreams. Forgive our short-sightedness, and lead us once more on paths unknown yet full of promise, that we might give all of ourselves in the worship of you, and for the good of our neighbor.**

*(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)*

Sung Response (GTG) No. 88, verse 7    O Come O Come Emmanuel    VENI EMMANUEL  
***O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Assurance of Pardon *adapted from Isaiah 60*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you!  
We were not made for small lives.

**But for great things: great purpose, great generosity, great courage in following God.**

**We are full of God's potential, and God calls us blessed. Thanks be to God!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering	<i>The Gifts of the Magi</i>	Kristin Hartwell
Prayer for Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6 (page 676, red Bible)	
Anthem	A Light Shall Shine <i>(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)</i>	Lloyd Larson
Gospel Reading	Matthew 2:1-12 (pages 877-878, red Bible)	
Sermon Title	<i>Different from the Beginning: A Magi's Tale by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson</i> Read by Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche	
*Hymn (GTG) No. 147	The First Nowell	THE FIRST NOWELL

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith    *Nicene Creed, hymnal (GTG) page 34*

Offering our Gifts to God

*[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so  
at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory    Interlude    Mark Hayes

\*Doxology    Glory to God Hymnal, page 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, Emmanuel:  
as you have given yourself to us  
through the coming of the Christ child,  
we also give ourselves to you.  
**Receive these offerings,  
given in hope,  
that they may be part of your life  
in this world. Amen.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(Minister continues praying)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, amen.**

**Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread**

**\*Communion of the People**

*(Please come forward using the center aisle and return to your seats using the side aisle. If you are not able to come forward, remain in your seat and you will be served. Gluten free bread and cup are available on the small table in the center aisle.)*

**We Leave to Serve**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 151	We Three Kings of Orient Are	KINGS OF ORIENT
*Invitation, Charge and Benediction		
*Sign of Peace		
*Postlude	Procession	Edvard Grieg

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.

*Liturgy by: Jeanie Gushee, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Joanna Harader, re:Worship.*

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Bell Choir

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Mary J Horr, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

