



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, January 12, 2025

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

The Baptism of the Lord

10:00am

January 12, 2025

## 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

*May you listen to your longing to be free. May the frames of your belonging be generous enough for your dreams. May you arise each day with a voice of blessing whispering in your heart. May you find a harmony between your soul and your life. May the sanctuary of your soul never be haunted. May you know the eternal longing that lives at the heart of time. May there be kindness in your gaze when you look within. May you never place walls between the light and yourself. May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world to gather you, mind you, and embrace you in belonging.*

Prelude

Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision

Mark Hayes

\*Call to Worship *adapted from Isaiah 43*

In the moments of being overwhelmed,  
when life is more than these fragile hearts can contain,  
**God says, "do not fear, I have redeemed you. You are mine."**  
In moments that are too quiet, too empty,  
heavy with silence and loneliness,  
**God says, "do not fear, I have redeemed you. You are mine."**  
In moments of grief and loss, of uncertainty and an unclear path ahead,  
**God says, "do not fear, I have redeemed you. You are mine."**  
In every moment, in every place; in this moment, in this place.  
**God says, "do not fear, I have redeemed you. You are mine."**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

## 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

**Guiding God, we confess that often it can feel like we walk this journey of life alone. We can feel like all things are up to us – our wellbeing, our worth, our purpose. We forget that we need you. We forget that you alone are our redeemer, and that we belong to you. Forgive our self-importance, and our stubbornness. Return us to your self-giving love, that we may find our way once more, together.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

Assurance of Pardon *adapted from Isaiah 43*

God does not call us evil, or bad, or wrong.

God names us beloved, precious, honored.

There is nowhere God won't go to bring us home again.

**We are created for God's glory. We are good. We are forgiven.**

**We have a redeemer. Thanks be to God!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (page 935, red Bible)

Anthem

Be thou My Vision

arr. Dan Forrest

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7 (page 658, red Bible)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Title

From Far Away

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 177

I Will Come to You

YOU ARE MINE

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good,**

**and makes everyone equally in God's image,**

**male and female, [and all expressions of the divine]**

**of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,**

**we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,**

**accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,**

**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah  
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage. Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

Prayers of the People 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.**

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

**We give these gifts freely, God, just as freely as you give to us. Use them for the building of children made whole in acceptance, and a world made free in peace. Use them to build your family here on earth, where all are welcome, and all belong. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*You are encouraged to remain and enjoy the postlude as a moment of prayer and worship before departing today.*

\*Postlude

Postlude on "Hyfrydol"

David Lasky

*All are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with one another over refreshments in the narthex following this service.*

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

*Liturgy by: John O Donohue, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.*

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor  
Brittney Axton, Director of Music  
Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist  
Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:  
Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist  
Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

