



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, February 25, 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

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00am

February 25, 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

*What can I say that I have not said before? So I'll say it again. The leaf has a song in it.
Stone is the face of patience. Inside the river there is an unfinished story and you are somewhere in it
and it will never end until all ends. Take your busy heart to the art museum and the chamber of commerce
but take it also to the forest. The song you heard singing in the leaf when you were a child
is singing still.*

I am of years lived, so far, seventy-four, and the leaf is singing still.

Prelude

Led by a Star

Garrett Parker

*Call to Worship

Lent is not the time for dwelling on our imperfections.

Lent is the time for careful self-reflection and re-connection with Christ.

For God is indeed our salvation.

So we will trust and have no fear.

Lent is an opportunity for repentance.

A time for having God remake our hearts and reshape our aims.

In loving kindness, God's anger turned from us.

We were drawn close again and comforted.

Lent is a season for abundant joy.

Exhilarated by defying sin, shattering indifference,

and turning our faces back to the Holy One.

We will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation!

We will sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things!

* Hymn (GTG) No. 664

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Lent is a season to move with intention towards Easter. We lay aside what we do not need to carry with us this journey: setting aside the regret, the mistakes, and

the heavy loads. We cling to the joy of resurrection life that comes, even now, drawing near to us as we draw near to God.

Prayer of Confession *adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, 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. We thank you, God, for freeing us of our sin, and freeing all of creation, in your grace.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577 Lord, Have Mercy KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Assurance of Pardon

There is much that is too heavy, much that is too hard to bear. But in this moment, we cling to the abundant joy that we are God's own, that we are entirely beloved, and that we are not alone.

This joy of God's acceptance is for all of us, and all of creation. Thanks be to God!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Leah Wyckoff

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38 (page 919, red Bible)

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth

Phillip Keveren

(Soloist: Brittney Axton)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35 (pages 649-650, red Bible)

Sermon Title

enjoyLENT: Creation Joy Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 22

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Lisa Frenz*

We believe in God the Creator,

who created and is creating everything:

the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;

each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.

We believe in God the Christ,

who saved and is saving everything:

the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us:

each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who guided and is guiding everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.
We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us,
working directly in our lives
and the lives of all who are born into this world,
striving to bring us back into harmony
with all creation and with God:
forgiving, healing, touching everyone,
never rejecting any.

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 or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory

Agape

Jim Tidwell

*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 may not feel like we have much, Giving God, but we do have enough to look out for our neighbor. We do have enough to help a life in need. We do have enough to make our days count. Use all we offer this day, to bring a bit more joy to this weary world, amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

Let Your Light So Shine

Chester Norman

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.
Liturgy by: Mary Oliver, Bruce Pewter, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

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

Assisting in Today's Service:
Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist
Leah Wyckoff, Children's Gathering

