



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 10, 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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00am

March 10, 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

You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves. Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on. Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clear blue air, are heading home again. Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting-- over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

Prelude

Why Should I Then Grieve?

Walther

*Call to Worship

Here, at the outer limits of Lent, we are called to walk:
to the paper-thin edges that cut us to the soul;
to the workplaces that weary us;
to the people who confuse us;
to the faith that threatens us.

Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness,
we are called to wait:

when our clenched stomachs awaken us;
in the moments of unbearable sorrow;
with the angels who would carry us.

Here, where time is fulfilled, where God is as near to us
as our neighbor, we encounter Lent:

with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears,
with the God who will not let go of our hands.

* Hymn (GTG) No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

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

Forgive

**the silly sins of childhood,
the exuberant sins of adolescence,
the faded sins of aging;**

forgive

**the sins we shout in the streets,
the sins we whisper to ourselves;**

forgive

**the sins we didn't give a second thought to,
the sins we plot in the middle of the night;**

forgive

**the flood of sins which threaten us,
the wilderness of sin which we offer to others,
the sin which seeks to imprison us:**

forgive.

**Forgive us, Good and Gentle God,
forgive us and have mercy on us,
so we might walk the path of joy and faithfulness
with Jesus, to Jerusalem and beyond.**

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago.
God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love and
compassion:

God pours it into our thirsty lives.

**Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one
another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Kristin Hartwell

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21 (page 968, red Bible)

Anthem

Kyrie

Lloyd Larson

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

New Testament Reading James 1:1-4, 19-27 (page 1100, red Bible)

Sermon Title *enjoyLENT: Compassionate Joy* Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 702

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith Belhar Confession

We believe:

**that God has been revealed as the one who wishes to
bring about justice and true peace among people;
that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged,
that God calls the church to follow in this;
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit
the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
that God wishes to teach the church to do
what is good and to seek the right;
that the church must therefore stand by people
in any form of suffering and need.**

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

Verset

Boëllmann

*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

**As for us, Holy God, we offer our gifts to bring healing to the broken, hope to
those in despair, light to those in shadows, and grace for all your people. In Jesus'
name, we pray. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

Trumpet Tune

Vivaldi

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Mary Oliver, Thom Shuman.

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:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

