



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 17, 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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00am

March 17, 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

I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed.

As for the body, it is solid and strong and curious and full of detail; it wants to polish itself; it wants to love another body; it is the only vessel in the world that can hold, in a mix of power and sweetness: words, song, gesture, passion, ideas, ingenuity, devotion, merriment, vanity, and virtue.

Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.

Prelude

Lamb of God

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

If God is a hen,
we are under God's wing.

If God is a table,
we each have a seat.

If God is a house,
we are safe from the storm.

If God is a party,
we're invited to dance.

If God is a melody,
our names are the lyrics.

If this is God's house,
then all are welcomed. All are loved. All belong.

Let us worship Holy god.

* Hymn (GTG) No. 626

As the Deer (*sung twice*)

AS THE DEER

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

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

Teach us a new way.

Teach us to live as you live. Teach us to love as you love.

Forgive us when we don't. Gratefully we pray, amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ,

no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander,

no matter how lost we feel,

God's grace is full to the brim.

It overflows in desert places.

It finds us where we are and

it covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news—

God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God, amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (page 717, red Bible)

Anthem

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

John Helgen

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

John 16:16-24 (pages 984-985, red Bible)

Sermon Title

*enjoy*LENT: Complete Joy Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (*sung three times*)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed (hymnal page 35)

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

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 open our hands, that you will fill them with purpose, O God. We open our hearts, that you will show us the path of complete joy. We open our many gifts, that you will grow ever new interconnectedness in us. Use all things for your good in this world, amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 683

Lord of All Hopefulness

COURTNEY

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

March of the Faithful

Robert J. Hughes

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Mary Oliver, Sarah (Are) Speed of Sanctified Art, Thom Shuman 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:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

