



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 3, 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

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00am

March 3, 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

*Who made the world? Who made the swan, and the black bear? Who made the grasshopper?
I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields, which is what I have been doing all day. Tell me, what else should I have done? Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?*

Prelude

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

J.S.Bach

*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. 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed, through Jesus Christ.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Assurance of Pardon

What can sustain us in the days to come, what will nourish us on our Lenten journey?

Look, here is all the food we need: God's Love, God's Hope, God's Joy.

Through the wilderness and into the communion of life, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompspon

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22 (pages 967-968, red Bible)

Anthem

Gather Us In

Mark Hayes

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 9:7-18 (page 608, red Bible)

Sermon Title

enjoyLENT: Wise Joy

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

MADELEINE

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith The Confession of 1967

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity.

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

**In God's economy of grace, there is enough. Enough to be generous. Enough to
give joyfully. Enough to think beyond ourselves. Accept all we offer this day,
Generous God, and use it in your wisdom, for the good of all. 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.)*

Blessing Mary Ellen Fruehan on Her Journey

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

BICENTENNIAL

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Marcello

*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, 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:

Mary Jane Horr, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

