



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 19, 2023

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 19, 2023

## 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 is home but that place where forgiveness stands at the door, peers out the window, and rushes down the steps to meet us? It is there in that lovely dwelling place called home that we discover that we don't have to be perfect to be loved.*

Prelude

Why Should I Then Grieve?

Johann Gottfried Walther

## \*Call to Worship

We come to sanctify ourselves.

**We come seeking to be worthy of our call.**

The Lord looks not at our outward selves,

**but seeks to know what is in our hearts.**

Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,

**that we might live as children of the Most High.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG SM

## We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

How do we know when our actions are right?

**When the fruits of our labors are good and true.**

Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment.

Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us**

**when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578      O Lord, Have Mercy      ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Jesus restores our souls  
and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**Surely goodness and mercy**

**shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.**

## **We Receive God's Word**

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23 (pages 969-970, red Bible)

Anthem

How Great His Love

Ruth Elaine Schram

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-11, 18-25, 34-41

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

What It Means to See

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

## **We Experience God's Grace**

\*Affirmation of Faith: (from A Brief Statement of Faith, sections 1 and 2)

Glory to God Hymnal, Page 37

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Glory to God Hymnal, Page 35

Offering our Gifts to God

*[Note: An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary or you may contribute online at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or use 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

**Take our lives and let them be.  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take our moments and our days.  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take our silver and our gold.  
None of it will we withhold.  
Take our love, O Lord, we pour.  
At your feet its treasure store. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 853	We Are Marching in the Light of God	SIYAHAMBA
*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.

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Transitional Pastor

Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Mary J Horr, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

