



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*



The *alfombras* in Antigua, Guatemala are a celebration of Easter through intricate patterns created with sawdust and colored sand. As the Easter procession walks through the cobble streets, this colorful Easter dust is scattered throughout the streets.

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Bedford, Texas Sunday, March 31, 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

The Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

10:00am

March 31, 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

*Faith is the instructor. We need no other . . . Because I love the world I think of grass, I think of leaves and the bold sun, I think of the rushes in the black marshes just coming back from under the pure white and now finally melting stubs of snow. Whatever we know or don't know leads us to say; Teacher, what do you mean? But faith is still there, and silent. Then he who owns the incomparable voice suddenly flows upward and out of the room and I follow, obedient and happy. Of course, I am thinking the Lord was once young and will never in fact be old. And who else could this be, who goes off down the green path, carrying his sandals, and singing?*

Prelude

Lord, Be Glorified

Arr. Mark Hayes

Anthem

Praise the Holy Lamb of God  
(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Lloyd Larson

### \*Call to Worship

This is the day:

**when tears are wiped away;  
shattered hearts are mended;  
fears are replaced with joy.**

This is the day the Lord:

**rolls away the stone of fear;  
throws off death's clothes;  
goes ahead of us into God's future.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**death has no fear for us;  
sin has lost its power over us;  
God opens the tombs of our hearts  
to fill us with life.**

This is the day - Easter Day!

**Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 238

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

### Prayer of Confession

**Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

### Assurance of Pardon

God's grace is for each of us, scattered in all the dusty corners of our mistakes.

God's life is for each of us, creating newness and joy even now.

**God's forgiveness is for each of us, setting us free to forgive ourselves and others. Christ is risen! We are risen with him! Thanks be to God.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9 (page 639, red Bible)

Anthem

Hallelujah! What a Savior

Molly Ijames

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35 (page 964, red Bible)

Sermon Title

Resurrection Joy

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

Choral Response

Crown Him Lord of All!

Jay Rouse

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

## We Experience God's Grace

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

Offering our Gifts to God

*[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory

Emmaus Sunrise

Eric Lewis

\*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

**God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. 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.)*

**We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 246

Christ is Alive!

TRURO

\*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

Alla Maestoso

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, Thom Shuman, Teri McDowell Ott, 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:

Tonia Thompson, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

