



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, April 7, 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 Second Sunday of Easter

10:00am

April 7, 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

*All that is eternal in me welcomes the wonder of this day. The field of brightness it creates, offering time for each thing to arise and illuminate. I place on the altar of dawn: the quiet loyalty of breath, the tent of thought where I shelter, waves of desire I am shore to, and all beauty drawn to the eye. May my mind come alive today to the invisible geography that invites me to new frontiers, to break the dead shell of yesterdays, to risk being disturbed and changed. May I have the courage today to live the life that I would love, to postpone my dream no longer. But do at last what I came here for. And waste my heart on fear no more.*

Prelude

Seek Ye First

Arr. Mark Zeeman

### \*Call to Worship

God leads us down an Easter road:

**A road of new life and plenty.**

A road of joy and delight.

**Scarcity has no place on this road.**

Greed has no place on this road.

**This road is paved with abundant life,**

for all people.

for all bodies.

**We walk this road together,**

**and Jesus walks with us.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA NO.1

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

We come before God and each other to name that we are not perfect, but we can be better. We can be more generous, and more kind. We come with our confession knowing that God comes to us, always ready to forgive.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of Plenty, we confess that we are so easily swayed by ideas of scarcity. We believe the lie that we do not have enough money to help others. We believe the**

lie that we do not have enough compassion to care for the hurting. We believe the lie that we do not have enough energy to serve your children. But, with you, we do have enough. Forgive us for letting a fear of not enough keep us from doing something, anything, for the good of others. Set us free from this fear, that we might live with bold generosity and unwavering compassion, in your name.

*(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 is not a legalistic accountant tracking our failures and sins. God is a joyful friend reminding us of our true selves: that we are good, that we are creative, and that we are made in God's image. **God reminds us of who we really are, that we might serve this world with newfound joy and energy. Thanks be to God!**

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

Children's Gathering		Ken Richardson
Prayer for Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Psalm 133:1-3 (page 563, red Bible)	
Anthem	At the Lamb's High Feast <i>(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)</i>	Lloyd Larson
New Testament Reading	Acts 4:32-37 (page 995, red Bible)	
Sermon	Held in Common      Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche	
*Hymn (GTG) No. 661	Why Should I Feel Discouraged?	SPARROW

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith *The Confession of 1967***

**The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics.**

**But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. Life in Christ is life eternal.**

**The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

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](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory Abide with Me Timothy Matthews

\*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

**Use these gifts, O God, for the building up of all your people, for the renewal  
of the earth, for the survival of the struggling, and for the joy of common life  
together, in your name, amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 749 Come! Live in the Light! WE ARE CALLED

\*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 Procession Edvard Grieg

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

*Liturgy by: John O Donohue, 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:  
Caroline Loy, Liturgist  
Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

