



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, April 21, 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter/Creation Care Celebration

10:00am

April 21, 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

My work is loving the world. Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird — equal seekers of sweetness. Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums. Here the clam deep in the speckled sand . . . Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished. The phoebe, the delphinium. The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture. Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here, which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart and these body-clothes, a mouth with which to give shouts of joy to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam, telling them all, over and over, how it is that we live forever. My work is loving the world.

Prelude

Think About His Love

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

We belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected,

Like the love that unites one family.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

We are merely a strand in it.

This we know, whatever we do to the web,

We do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 19

God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

We confess our sin because honesty is the root of life. We face our failings, knowing that God faces us with grace and forgiveness, growing repentance in us.

Prayer of Confession

Not because we have made peace this day. Not because we have treated the other as ourselves. Not because we have walked the earth with reverence today, but because there is mercy, because there is grace, because your Spirit has not been

**taken from us, we come. Still thirsting for peace, still longing to love, still
hungering for wholeness.**

(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 never tires of redeeming, restoring, and resurrecting. Nothing can separate us,
or creation, from the life-giving love of God.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We are made new. We are invited to participate
in the healing of the land. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Tonia Thompson
Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:1-13 (pages 671-672, red Bible)
Anthem Canticle of Love Joseph M. Martin
(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)
New Testament Reading 1 John 3:16-24 (page 968, red Bible)
Sermon Title The Heart of Us Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche
*Hymn (GTG) No. 693 Though I May Speak GIFT OF LOVE

We Experience God's Grace

***Affirmation of Faith** *adapted from the PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation Pledge*

The earth belongs to God, and not to us.

**God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and
restore it. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus
Christ, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.**

**Our worship and discipleship celebrate God's grace and glory in creation
as we cherish, protect, and restore this earth.**

**Our education sustains and supports us in the work of healing creation and
establishing justice in God's name.**

**Our facilities are used to respect and cherish all creation, human and non-
human, while meeting the needs of all people with fairness.**

**Our buildings and our grounds reflect our commitment to use energy
efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance.**

This is not just for us; it is for all who will come after us.

**Our outreach encourages public policy and community involvement to protect
and restore the vulnerable earth, and the vulnerable people upon it.**

The earth belongs to God, and not to us. Amen.

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 The Sweetest Name of All Arr. Mark Zeeman
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 offer these gifts to you, Generous God, offering with them our
commitments to work for a better world, to live with greater care, and to walk
with deeper gratitude, in your name. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 80 (*sung three times*) You Shall Go Out with Joy THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*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 Morning Song Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Mary Oliver, Iona Community, John Philip Newell, 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

