



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, April 28, 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

April 28, 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

*This is the season for my body to catch up with my soul. In this, I rejoice. Still, my spirit cries for peace. Help me heal in this time of renewal. Help me find community, those who welcome me and invite me to their table. When I doubt my existence, remind me I am yours. When there is violence, show me serenity. When I am treated with unkindness, help me to be kind. When I am hated, help me return to love. When I am set apart, help me to include. When others judge me, remind me I am yours. And when I doubt you have designed me, remind me I am just so in the Book of Life. May I always dwell in your peace, your love, your understanding, your light, your wisdom, your heart. Amen.*

Prelude

We Have Come Into His House

Arr. Bill Wolaver

### \*Call to Worship

The Spirit of God hovered over the watery chaos of creation  
**and created a world, naming it good.**

The power of God parted a sea to lead a people out of slavery  
**and re-created their world, naming them free.**

The grace of God called the Ethiopian eunuch to be baptized  
**and washed him clean, naming him forgiven.**

That same Spirit, that same power, that same grace gathers us here  
**and names us good, free and forgiven.**

Let us worship God!

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

We cannot love the world when we do not love ourselves. We cannot love ourselves when we hold onto bitter regrets and self-judgment. Come, to the waters of grace, let go of what God has already freed you from. Confess your sin and remember the grace that holds you fast.

## Prayer of Confession

**In the face of all that this world has become and endures: the death and destruction, the division and disinterest, we need a baptism that will cleanse and heal us and wash away our sin. In the face of all that this world could be and could know: the beauty and the bravery, the compassion and companionship, the generosity and curiosity, we need a baptism that will renew and inspire us and awaken us to your life within. So, pour out your living water, we pray, flood us, and make us new and send us out as water bearers to awaken life in your world.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

## Assurance of Pardon

Beloved children of God: hear and believe this good news: God has washed away all our sin. **Christ has made a way of life for us. The Spirit has rested upon us to bring courage and joy. God has held nothing back: we are completely forgiven, seen, and loved. Thanks be to God!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Kristin Hartwell

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:1-7 (page 670, red Bible)

Anthem

Laudation

Brenda E. Austin

*(Emmanuel Bell Choir)*

New Testament Reading

Acts 8:26-40 (page 1000, red Bible)

Sermon Title

Here is Water

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

## We Experience God's Grace

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

**By humble submission to John's baptism, Christ joined himself to people in their need and entered upon his ministry of reconciliation in the power of the Spirit. Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit by all his people. Baptism with water represents not only cleansing from sin, but a dying with Christ and a joyful rising with him to new life. It commits all Christians to die each day to sin and to live for righteousness. In baptism, the church celebrates the renewal of the covenant with which God has been bound to humanity. By baptism, individuals are publicly received into the church to share**

**in its life and ministry, and the church becomes responsible for their training and support in Christian discipleship.**

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 Jesus, What a Wonder You Are Arr. Bruce Greer

\*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, accept all we give this day: our money, our energy, our understanding, our openness. Use all these for the building up of all people and the sending out of your church to transform the world with love and acceptance, in your name, amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOLD CMD

\*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 Fantasy in A minor Edward Broughton

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

*Liturgy by: Trans Prayer by Laurie Wolfe, John van de Laar, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.*

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Bell Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

