



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, May 5, 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

May 5, 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

*You raise your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation: birds carry the melody while stars keep the beat; mountains dance in merriment and little children clap their hands with joy. Love's Composer, our new songs are lifted to you. The old, old song is made new in our hearts: Christ is Risen! Sing Alleluia! You invite us to sing to a world wearied by despair and haunted by the tunes of fear. Lord of the Dance, our new songs are lifted to you. Believing we cannot carry a tune, we hesitate to join in the chorus of praise sung by all creation. So, you softly and gently hum the melody in our hearts until they burst with you, raising a rousing chorus of Amazing Grace.*

Prelude

Praise the Lord

Arr. Bill Wolaver

### \*Call to Worship

We gather to worship the One  
who crafted creation out of chaos,  
**our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.**

We gather to lift our praise  
to the God who gives us voice,  
**we bring the songs which have echoed  
in our hearts all week long.**

We gather as the children of God,  
our joy unbroken in God's love.  
**Young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched  
lift the new, new songs of faith.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Beautiful music, every note perfect, joining together in graceful harmony – this is what we imagine our lives to be. Yet our love is flat; our anger often sharp. Let us confess how we struggle to keep the measured beat of God's life-giving melody in our lives.

## Prayer of Confession

Joy-giving God, we want to learn new songs, but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads. We long to make a joyful noise to you, but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others, silence our voices. Sing to us, Conductor of Grace: sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us. Strike a chord of humility in our hearts so our eyes could see all you have done for us; and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us; and in believing, we would echo that new song of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

## Assurance of Pardon

Listen to the melody of the good news: Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world. The One who was dead now lives, and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God. **Now, our dirges have turned to joy; our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope; our laments are lost in a cantata of praise. We are forgiven and given new life in Christ! Alleluia!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17 (pages 983-984, red Bible)

Anthem

I Choose Love

Mark A. Miller

*(Emmanuel Treble Choir)*

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 98:1-9 (page 540, red Bible)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Title

God's Song

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 525

Let Us Let Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

## We Experience God's Grace

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *Whitney Wilkinson Arreche*

**We believe in God as community: Creator, Child, Spirit.**

**We believe Jesus was God's child, born of a brave woman who sang a song of lifting up the lowly and bringing down the proud and powerful.**

**We believe Jesus sang his mother's song all his life, even in his death, and that resurrection means he will never stop healing, redeeming, and restoring.**

**We believe in a church we do not always see: where a wild Spirit is poured equally on all, where disaster is met with broken bread and division is met with a common cup.**

**We believe this church has some help (God knows we need it) and thus ministry is so much more than who's speaking, what the carpet looks like, or marketing the church into artificial immortality. The church is Spirit-breathed, fallible you and me, and about the gospel work of walls being recognized for what they are, and then coming down, and one new, messy humanity to show that – on the other side of death and chaos – God speaks that word again and again: "Light," and all creation is baptized with the radical hope that God is with us. We are with each other. We are not alone.**

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

Moderato con moto

Franck

\*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 gifts, Composing God, and weave a song of healing for the broken, of nourishment for the hungry, of hope for those who despair, and peace for those torn by violence. We sing our praises, as we offer our treasures, as well as our hearts, in the name of Jesus. 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. 611                      Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee                      HYMN TO JOY

\*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                                      Recessional                                      Chester Nordman

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

*Liturgy by: Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.*

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Treble Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:  
John Ferrandino, Liturgist  
Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

