



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, May 12, 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 Ascension of the Lord

10:00am

May 12, 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. 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

Fairest Lord Jesus  
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

Charles Maggs

### \*Call to Worship

God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears;  
who rescued us from captivity and fear:

**we are here to thank you.**

God of the future, who is tearing down the old world,  
and building your kingdom in our midst:

**we are here because we trust you.**

God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity,  
creates us to be one people:

**we are here to praise you.**

God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

**we celebrate your grace.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LE P'ING

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Confession is not a weighing down, but a lightening of our loads. We unburden ourselves before the God and the people we trust and move with greater ease into this day that is God's gift to us.

## Prayer of Confession

**We in the church are worshipping Process, busily making our lists and listing our busy-ness, in danger of sacrificing our souls for our schedules. Task-forced, agenda-bleary, paper-logged, we look for God in the boardroom and salvation in committee. When process becomes more important than people, it's time to break through to the poetry of promise. It's never too late to return to the Poet, whose sky sings stars, whose earth dances green, whose promise writes love upon our hearts. We will return to you, O God, Poet of our souls.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: it is not all up to us! Jesus is at work in ways we cannot even yet see, and we, as his disciples, are invited to partner with him in the works of healing, justice, and peace. **We are set free from our own self-importance to embrace a life God has long ago prepared for us. Thanks be to God!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 93:1-5 (page 538, red Bible)

Anthem

Praise to the Lord

Sandra Eithun

*(Emmanuel Bell Choir)*

New Testament Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (page 991, red Bible)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Title

About Time

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 683

Lord of All Hopefulness

COURTNEY

## We Experience God's Grace

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

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.**

