



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, July 18, 2021

10:00am

Mission Statement

Courageously proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we:

- worship and glorify God,
- grow in faith as disciples,
- seek justice and mercy,
- and nurture those in need while embracing all humanity.

Welcome to this service of worship. The Emmanuel congregation invites all ages to worship God together. 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.

Celebration of Worship

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am

July 18, 2021

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

[Remember to add your prayer requests for inclusion in the Prayers of the People on the paper forms in the friendship pads. Place the paper forms in the offering plate.]

Centering Words

Throughout these texts, there is a subtle theme that relates rest with divinity. Even the Divine asks for a place to settle. Every creature and creation, bearing the image of God, needs and is worthy of a place and time to safely be at peace - in mind, body, and spirit. Even as we may look around and only see all that needs tending, we are reminded that one individual is not meant to bear the suffering of the whole. We take care of ourselves and each other, supporting opportunities for rest, transforming systems and powers that refuse it, as one way of living out our faith in community.

Prelude

Rock of Ages

Lenny Seidel

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Spirit of Christ is full of wisdom:

People: She blesses our learning and our unlearning, She is not overwhelmed by the work to be done.

Leader: The Spirit of Christ overflows with compassion:

People: She moves toward us when we are unwell. She makes a way for us to rest.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Christ, live among us.

People: Wisdom and Compassion dwell in our hearts.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

(verses 1, 2 and 5 only)

We Are Renewed in Grace

Remembering Baptism

Prayer for Restoration

Holy One, accompany us no matter our state of mind; meet us, no matter the quality of our mood. Shore up our courage when we feel like we might surrender to life-draining patterns. Bolster our creativity when we feel stuck in old ways. In your steadfast name we pray, Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace. God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's

steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Sung Response (GTG) No. 775 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me WALK WITH ME

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Jim and Laura Mahon

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6 (page 711, red Bible)

Gospel Reading Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (pages 916-917, red Bible)

Special Music The Lord is My Shepherd arr. Ken Richardson
(*Grace Notes*)

Epistle Reading Ephesians 2:11-22 (pages 1069-1070, red Bible) Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "No More Wall"

Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith – (*Excerpts from the Confession of Belhar*)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

We believe that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity; Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

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: A basket is available in the sanctuary for you to walk to and drop your offering and prayers into. You may also contribute online at emmanuelpc.org]

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Like a Shepherd Lead Us Robert Lau

*Doxology Glory to God Hymnal, Page 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. ☩ Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God Help us! Our healers need a break! May those of us who can, sub in for the weary. May those of us who need rest, be supported and encouraged. Radical and Rested One, bless our shared resources to the rejuvenation of our healers and to the creation of new ways that honor our sacred rest. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 835 Just a Closer Walk with Thee CLOSER WALK

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

[You are invited to sit and enjoy the postlude. Please respect distance and the masking preferences of others as you depart.]

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude Prelude in F major, BWV 556 J.S. Bach

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

☩ Alternatively, "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"

Sources for this service: *Enfleshed*, 2021. Declaration of Forgiveness by Thom Shuman.

Worship Leaders

Reverend Dr. Richard Selby, Guest Preacher

Reverend Dr. Kyle Walker, Transitional Pastor

Susan LaPointe, Director of Music

Tak Yan Yeung, Accompanist

Liturgist:

Linda Villarreal

Jim and Laura Mahon

