



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 17, 2023

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

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 17, 2023

## 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

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves: Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small does not serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we're liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.*

Prelude

There's Wideness in God's Mercy

Richard Blake

### \*Call to Worship

In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe,  
in ordinary days of work and play:  
**in every moment, God is with us.**

Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud,  
or standing on faith's shoreline:  
**in every place, God is with us.**

In those who teach us  
and those who trouble us;  
in those who surprise us,  
and those who forgive us:  
**in every person, God is with us.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

As we stand before God, we think of all the ways we bicker with others, all those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us. We fear that, in God's accounting, we will always come up short. And yet, God meets us with grace in this place, so we confess our sin, unafraid.

## Prayer of Confession

**It is never easy for us to confess, but deep down inside, we know that as graced people, we have trouble being grace-full to others; as forgiven people, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; as freed people, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear. Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve; you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are the Lord's – sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we might live beyond death with you.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577      Lord, Have Mercy      KYRIE ELEISON (REINDORF)  
Assurance of God's Forgiveness

God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope. **We stand before our God, singing praise to the One who turns our despair into joy, and our fears into faith. Amen.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering      Kristin Hartwell

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading      Matthew 18:21-35 (page 896, red Bible)

Anthem      Grace      Mark Hayes

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

New Testament Reading      Romans 14:1-12 (pages 1034-1035, red Bible)

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon      Accountable to God      Rev. Peggy Rounseville

\*Hymn (GTG) No 703      Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me      ST. CATHERINE

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

**Those whom God effectually calls, God also freely justifies,  
not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins,  
and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous;  
not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone;  
not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing,  
or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness;  
but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them,  
they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness by faith;  
which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.**

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: An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary or you may contribute online at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or use the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory Abide with Me Timothy Matthews

\*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

**May these simple gifts offer a welcome to the friendless, a meal for the hungry, shelter for those in disasters, and hope for all who are despised in our times. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 754 Help Us Accept Each Other BARONITA

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

\*Sign of Peace

\*Postlude Alla Maestoso Chester Norman

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Marianne Williamson, Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Peggy Rounseville, Guest Preacher

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

