



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 3, 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

31th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

November 3, 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

Lord, the shadowed world is full of troubles. So give me the good, inconvenient work of love. Link my life to others so that their worries become my own. Give me errands I don't want which ease the burdens of others. Divert me from the plans I've made to zip from A to B when you have better ideas. Put my hands to work with a less-grumbling heart and let their dreams drift into my own. You've given me tools to use and ideas to fashion that will bring me neither recognition, nor money, nor praise. You've made love such a sneaky thing. The more we love as you do, the less we are keeping track of it at all. Blessed are we who say, God, if you are Love, then I want you. I want love and all that love can do. The kind of love I could never earn, nor ever lose. Amen.

Prelude

Seek Ye First

Arr. Mark Zeeman

*Call to Worship *adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18*

"Hear, O Israel:

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might."**

Hear, O church of God:

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**And we shall love the Lord our God with all our heart,
and with all our soul, and with all our might.**

Hear, O children of God:

there is another commandment like the first.

We shall love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

These two commandments are the foundation of our Christian lives.

Thanks be to God! Let us worship God!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession *Hebrews 4:15-16*

The Scriptures tell us, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have loved us by sending your only Son, but we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. In his life and death, Jesus showed us how truly to love our neighbors, but we love ourselves more than we love others. Loving God, forgive us for withholding our complete love for and devotion to you. Help us give our hearts and lives fully to you so our hearts and lives may be open to our neighbors, especially those in need. Lord, forgive us, love us, and guide us through Jesus Christ.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 551

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, scripture tells us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us." In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare to you, our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 146:1-10 (page 570, red Bible)

Anthem

Trust in the Lord

Mark Hayes

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34 (page 924, red Bible)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Title

Not Far

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Summary of the Law, hymnal page 36*

Offering our Gifts to God

[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so at emmanuelpc.org or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]

Offertory

Interlude

Mark Hayes

*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

Generous and loving God, we do thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer today. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. 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. 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYDY NOS

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

You are encouraged to remain and enjoy the postlude as a moment of prayer and worship before departing today.

*Postlude

Trumpet Tune

George Blake

All are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with one another over refreshments in the narthex following this service.

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by Kate Bowler, Phillip Gladden.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Mary Jane Horr, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering

