



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 19, 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

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

November 19, 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

Now, in the silence, when we struggle to control our lives, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope. Now, in these moments, when we cannot let go of our worries and doubts, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith. Now, on this day which is only and always your gift to us, may we, once again, live into your grace.

Prelude Blessed Jesus, We Are Here J.S.Bach

*Call to Worship

This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.

This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.

This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have given to those around us, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (REINDORF)

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Servant.

The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Exodus 31:12-17 (page 77, red Bible)

Anthem

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30 (page 904, red Bible)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Parable of Plenty

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No 771

What Is the World Like

NEW WORLD

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *adapted from the Confession of 1967*

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ

embraces the whole of our life.

It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life

shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ

and all evil be banished from creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,

stirring hope in people and preparing the world

to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope,

the church applies itself to present tasks

and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress

with the kingdom of God on earth,

nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement

to the final triumph 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: 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 God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you have entrusted us with. We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here. Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 772 Live into Hope TRURO

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude Praise the Lord, Ye Nations May F. Lawrence

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Thom Shuman, Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett Presbyterian Outlook.

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:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

