



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 31, 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

First Sunday of Christmas

10:00am

December 31, 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

You could let us continue to shuffle through the world's deserts, God of Christmas, but you choose to walk with us beside the rivers of life. You could forget who we are, but you adopt us into your family, your children of hope and joy. You could decide we are not worth all the love or all the agony of caring, but you redeem us and make us whole. Blessed are you! It was only the other day the angels were singing of your birth, Tiny One of Bethlehem, and now, here you are, running swiftly toward us. Blessed are you! At the edge of a new year, we wonder what life will be like, and what do you do, Gathering Spirit? You water our parched souls with laughter; you teach dance steps to those too weary to tap their toes; you fill our emptiness with overflowing gladness! Blessed are you! Blessed are we.

Prelude

No Longer a Baby

by Jan Sanborn

*Call to Worship

Together we seek the Holy One.
We call upon our God who is near.
Near in the Christ child we celebrate.
Near in the Spirit we receive.
Near in the creation we inhabit.
Together we proclaim Emmanuel –
God-with-us.
Together we live Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

* Hymn (GTG) No. 309 Come, Great God of All the Ages

ABBOT'S LEIGH

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Have we really been to Bethlehem? Have we worshiped at the manger? Have we changed, for the better? Or have we simply gone back to being the people we were before the joy, the peace, the gifts of Christmas? Let us confess how we have not lived as those who have seen the Christ child, that we may know the joy of God's presence once more.

*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

Holy One, Emmanuel:
as you have given yourself to us
through the coming of the Christ child,
we also give ourselves to you.

**Receive these offerings,
given in hope,
that they may be part of your life
in this world. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 372

O for a World

AZMON

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

Angels From the Realms of Glory

arr. M. Hayes

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by: Thom Shuman , Joanna Harader.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Lucia McKee Kremzar, Guest Preacher

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Linda Pritchett, Pianist

Grace Notes Wind Ensemble

Assisting in Today's Service:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

