



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 1, 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

First Sunday of Advent

10:00am

December 1, 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

*In the hiddenness of divine presence and the startling glimpses of unknown glory,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

*In the quiet random acts of kindness, the unexpected help, the welcome of a stranger,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

*In messages of judgement on wrong, of hope and renewal, and the promise of change,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

*Filling the skies with a Hallelujah chorus, singing the glory of divine love,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

*In the voice that speaks into our dreams and meets our longing with promise,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

*Shining in the space between earth and heaven, radiant with the mystery of the divine,
we sense the wonder and mystery of the angels.*

Prelude

In Quiet Joy

Marcel Dupré

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Litany:

We are not ready when the angels come.

**The bringers of vision and comfort,
of change and uncertainty.**

But still, they come:

these messengers of God,

bearing messages of a new world breaking into our midst.

A world born in a vulnerable baby.

We are not ready, but we wait, listening,
yearning, inclining our ears and our hearts toward
the smallest, loudest whisper of angel's wings.

The advent of angels in our midst.

Sung Response: hymn (GTG) No. 105 People, Look East, *verse 1 and 5* BESANÇON
*People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

*Lighting the First Advent Candle (Hope):
As we light this candle of hope,
we enter together into the holy season of Advent:
a season of activity and of waiting,
a season of shadow and of lights,
a season of messages and of hope.
a seasons of angels and of song.*

*Hymn (GTG) No. 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Advent is the season of preparing, of waiting, of hoping. So, let us confess to the One who comes, ready to forgive, ready to birth new life in us.

Prayer of Confession

God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways. Hear our confession. Heal our hearts. Forgive our sins. In Jesus you call us to hope that your justice will prevail—that the hungry will be fed and the lowly lifted up. In Jesus you call us to faith in the mystery of your Presence in the world, and the truth that nothing will be impossible with you. In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response (GTG) No. 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People *verse 2* GENEVAN 42

Assurance of Pardon

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

Thanks be to the God of Advent, who comes in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36 (page 960, red Bible)

Anthem Upon the Wind There Comes a Song from *Tidings of Joy* Joseph M. Martin
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 8:15-27 (page 815, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

Gabriel's Vision

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Ann Weems*

Angels still appear to those ready to receive blessings in spite of the barren impossibility of their lives. Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus and calls him Lord, receiving him to her heart, in spite of the distraction of her own blessing.

Blessings still come to those who believe that nothing is in the hand of God.

Mary still gives birth, not just every Advent, Mary gives birth each day to this child who Advents in our hearts, unexpectedly and forever.

Herods still live who would kill this Child,

but Mary and Joseph still flee, into the desert,

Doors still slam on the inns of this world, Herods still plot to kill, deserts and darkness still threaten our safety, but God still lives.

In spite of war and terror, Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.

In spite of hunger, Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.

In spite of lost sheep, Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd.

In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred, Mary gives birth to LOVE.

It is not done!

It is not done!

It is not done!

The birthing is not over. The blessings continue. Angels wait in the wings!

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 It Is Well with My Soul Ron Loree

*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

**Because of you, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May you
use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the
empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. 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. 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude Gloria Roger Wilson

**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: Jan Berry, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Thom Shuman, Ann Weems.

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:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

