



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:00am

Mission Statement

Courageously proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we:

- worship and glorify God,
- grow in faith as disciples,
- seek justice and mercy,
- and nurture those in need while embracing all humanity.

Welcome to this service of worship. The Emmanuel congregation invites all ages to worship God together. 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.

Celebration of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00am

December 6, 2020

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Chuck Schneider

Centering Words (*Psalm 82:8*)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

"Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, who turn to him in their hearts."

Prelude

Prelude in F

Ludwig van Beethoven

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jeremy, Courtney, and Caroline Loy

Chorale Introit

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

*Call to Worship

John and Barbara Field

A voice cries out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Let us line the road with beauty

and pave it with acts of justice.

For the Holy One is coming our way,

the giver of life and the source of living water.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 105

People, Look East

BESANCON

*Opening Prayer

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Gracious God, we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus into a manger and into our hearts and homes. Bless our Advent waiting; fill our worship with anticipation of your love; and dedicate us to prepare your way by lifting up the valleys in our lives and making smooth the rough places of others, for we pray in the name of Emmanuel--God with us. Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession (Liturgist)

John and Barbara Field

Prayer of Confession

John and Barbara Field

"Prepare the way of the Lord," your prophet says to us. Forgive us when we have failed to prepare your way. Forgive us when we have stood in your way, instead: when we let the challenging words of your prophets roll off of our lives, rather than let them spark change; when we walk around a neighbor in need, rather than

encounter a chance for compassion. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance that the glory of your coming does not depend upon the righteousness of your followers. Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again. Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

John and Barbara Field

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*Sung Response (GTG) No. 627

I Love You Lord

I LOVE YOU, LORD

(Sing twice)

We Receive God's Word

Anthem

Advent Medley

arr. Richardson

(Grace Notes Woodwind Ensemble)

Children's Gathering

Keith Royal

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (pages 653-654, red Bible)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8 (page 910, red Bible)

Rev. Chuck Schneider

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Where the Wild Things Are

Pastor Chuck Schneider

*Hymn (GTG) No. 523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

BICENTENNIAL

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith - *(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19)*

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

