



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## **Emmanuel Presbyterian Church**

**Bedford, Texas**

**Sunday, December 13, 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*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

10:00am

December 13, 2020

## **We Gather in Worship**

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Chuck Schneider

Centering Words (*Isaiah 61:1*)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

*"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners."*

Prelude

Allegro

Johann Christian Kittel

Lighting of the Advent Candle

James and Sheryl Taylor

\*Call to Worship

Jayne Johnson

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Light.

**The love of God shines upon us and reveals the truth of God's mercy.**

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Truth.

**The truth of our gospel is good news for the oppressed  
and a balm for the brokenhearted.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

\*Opening Prayer

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

**Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.**

## **We Are Renewed in Grace**

Invitation to Confession

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Prayer of Confession

Jayne Johnson

**O God, you have called us to participate in your salvific work of rebuilding and repairing your creation. Yet we know we have fallen short of that calling. Indeed, we have contributed to the devastation of our world. We confess our sin, O God. Renew us and help us be discerning and ready partners in your cosmic restoration project. Amen.**

*(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Jayne Johnson

God's mercy abounds. God's Advent grace goes before us, after us, through us — sometimes unbeknownst to us, restoring us and empowering us for participation in God's own work in the world. Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: we are forgiven and restored, set on right paths of justice and peace  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*Sung Response (GTG) No. 466

Come and Fill Our Hearts

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

## **We Receive God's Word**

Anthem

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

arr. Cathy Moglebust

*(Emmanuel Handbell Choir)*

Children's Gathering

Melissa Durkee

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (page 678, red Bible)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (page 966, red Bible) Rev. Chuck Schneider

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Good News

Rev. Chuck Schneider

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

## **We Experience God's Grace**

\*Affirmation of Faith - *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

Jayne Johnson

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Prayers of the People

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

**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

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Offertory

Thanksgiving Hymn

Colin Curtis

\*Doxology

Glory to God Hymnal, Page 606

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

**God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\*Benediction

Rev. Chuck Schneider

\*Sign of Peace

\*Postlude

Jesus, Name Above All Names/O, How I Love Jesus arr. Mark Hayes

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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



### Worship Leaders

Reverend Chuck Schneider, Temporary Pastor

Reverend Robin Lyn Valdez, Pastor

Susan LaPointe, Director of Music

Tak Yan Yeung, Accompanist

Liturgists:

Jayne Johnson

Melissa Durkee

James and Cheryl Taylor

