



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

**Emmanuel Presbyterian Church**  
**Bedford, Texas**  
**Sunday, December 20, 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*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

10:00am

December 20, 2020

## **We Gather in Worship**

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Chuck Schneider

Centering Words (*Psalm 89:1*)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

*"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations."*

Prelude

Cradle Hymn

Kim Andre Arnesen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jayne and Bruce Johnson

\*Call to Worship

Melissa Durkee

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!"

**The child she carries will be God's son,  
and the world will never be the same.**

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!"

**God was with her, and God is with us,  
drawing us into worship and praise.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 107    Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn    REJOICE, REJOICE

\*Opening Prayer

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

**As Christmas trees are lighted, as people rush to shop and send their cards, as Christmas songs are heard everywhere, keep us close to you, that the one whose coming we celebrate - Jesus Christ - may be honored by all we do. May all that we do in this season shine forth with your love. We are your people. Love through us. Let Christ be seen in us; for we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

## **We Are Renewed in Grace**

Invitation to Confession

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Prayer of Confession

Melissa Durkee

**An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!" And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn! Amen.**

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

Melissa Durkee

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. 561

Amen

AMEN

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

Anthem

Personent Hodie  
*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Old Testament Reading

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16  
*(page 278, red Bible)*

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38  
*(pages 931-932, red Bible)*

Rev. Chuck Schneider

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Unexpected

Rev. Chuck Schneider

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

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

Melissa Durkee

**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.**

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

Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabella

arr. Sandra Eithun

\*Doxology

Glory to God Hymnal, Page 606

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

**Incarnate God, we offer our gifts to you that they may be used to further the promise of hope, peace, love and justice in our community and in our world. Empower us, O God, to follow these gifts into the world around us so that they, and we, might become bearers of peace, love and justice on the earth. Amen.**

### **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

\*Benediction

Rev. Chuck Schneider

\*Sign of Peace

\*Postlude

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

arr. Michael Larkin

\*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:

Melissa Durkee

Jayne & Bruce Johnson

Ken Richardson

