



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 27, 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

First Sunday of Christmas

10:00am

December 27, 2020

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Sheryl Taylor, Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Centering Words (*Isaiah 9:7*)

Ray and Denise Karriker

"The authority of this poor child will grow. It will encompass all the earth, and knowingly or unknowingly, all human generations until the end of the ages will have to serve it." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God is in the Manger)

Prelude

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. Lani Smith

*Call to Worship

Ray and Denise Karriker

Let us come together to behold!

Into the heart of struggle, a new hope is born.

This miracle of love is threatened by state violence.

Turned away by the arrogant.

Made vulnerable to hunger and despair.

Let all the earth be a shelter.

Let solidarity be our praise.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*Opening Prayer

Ray and Denise Karriker

Long-Awaited One, we have prayed, we have kept watch, we have longed for your presence. And you, faithful one, have come bearing the flesh of the earth.

Teach us to perceive. Do not let us pass you by. May our attention be turned from all that keeps us from recognizing and blessing the sources of salvation dwelling among us. Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession (Liturgist)

Ray and Denise Karriker

Prayer of Confession

Ray and Denise Karriker

God of the manger, you have gone to great lengths to show your love to us that we might live our lives for you. The truth is that we have too often fallen short by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have traded your truth for lies that are convenient to our privilege and we have traded serving you for the approval of the powers of this world. Open our eyes to the separation we have created between ourselves and you. Grant that we may recognize your grace and respond with our faithfulness; that we may center ourselves in your way and your word which is embodied for us in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the babe of

Bethlehem, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Ray and Denise Karriker

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ is the one born for us, who lived for us, who died for us, who prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

*Sung Response (GTG) No. 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

We Receive God's Word

Anthem

My Lord Is Come

Will Todd

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Children's Gathering

Kristin Hartwell

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (page 678, red Bible) Ray and Denise Karriker

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40 (pages 933-934, red Bible) Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Two Turtledoves

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

*Hymn (GTG) No. 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith

Ray and Denise Karriker

**I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.**

**I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the happiness of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;
Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace, there will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.**

Prayers of the People

Ray and Denise Karriker

Lord's Prayer

Ray and Denise Karriker

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

Ray and Denise Karriker

Offertory

Interlude

Mark Hayes

*Doxology

Glory to God Hymnal, Page 606

Prayer of Dedication

Ray and Denise Karriker

Incarnate One, your divine solidarity abides with all the children of the earth. Through these offerings and all our actions, may we be faithful to the children among us - relationally, materially, spiritually. May we be protectors and encouragers as we work for a world where every child is free to flourish in body and spirit. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Robert J. Hughes

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Worship Leaders

Reverend Dr. Kyle Walker, Guest Preacher

Rev. Chuck Schneider, Temporary Pastor

Reverend Robin Lyn Valdez, Pastor

Susan LaPointe, Director of Music

Tak Yan Yeung, Accompanist

Liturgists:

Ray and Denise Karriker

Kristin Hartwell

Sheryl Taylor

