



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Christmas Eve 2020

5:00pm

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

Christmas Eve

Five o'clock in the afternoon

December 24, 2020

We Gather in Worship

Greeting

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Centering Words (*Titus 2:11*)

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all..."

Prelude

Waiting for Messiah

Robert W. Thygerson

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

The Richardson-Wyckoff Family

*Call to Worship

Keith Royal

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Amen.

* Hymn (GTG) No. 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*Opening Prayer

Keith Royal

Emmanuel, we listen to the story of prophets and angels, young woman and carpenter, shepherd and magi, and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing. We are filled with love because you have taken upon yourself our humanity; we are filled with hope because you have offered us your life and light; we are filled with faith because all that is humble and vulnerable in us and in creation becomes holy this night. Our salvation appears in sweet sacred surprise and we too respond, "Glory to God and, on earth, peace." Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Keith Royal

Prayer of Confession

Keith Royal

Gracious God, who promised to send a Redeemer to your people, we confess that we have not trusted your promise, but have busied ourselves with activities that obstruct its fulfillment. We give presents, but fail to be present with one another. We socialize with friends, but fail to welcome the stranger in our midst. We create commotion, and refuse to receive your peace. Forgive us, God, for our busyness and our lack of trust. Teach us to wait with expectant patience for the fulfillment of your promise to us. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

God described in Exodus and Isaiah and the Psalms *offers* forgiveness. God in the manger *is* forgiveness.

Amen!

* Sung Response (GTG) No. 120 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
(stanzas 3 and 4 only)

MANGER SONG

We Receive God's Word

Special Music

Sussex Carol

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir and String Quartet)

Children's Gathering

Jim and Laura Mahon

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 (pages 624-625, red Bible) Rev. Chuck Schneider

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 (page 933, red Bible) Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Now Is The Time

Reverend Robin Lyn Valdez

* Hymn (GTG) No. 145

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith (from *A Declaration of Faith*, PC(USA))

Keith Royal

We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it with love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God became human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things. We believe we are called, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's presence in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. May we sing it with our lips, and believe it in our hearts, as Christ the Savior is born. Amen.

Offering of our Gifts to God

Keith Royal

Offertory

Interlude

Mark Hayes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez and Rev. Chuck Schneider

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Breaking of Bread

*Communion of the People

*Prayer after Communion

Keith Royal

Wondrous God, we come to you in this decorated sanctuary, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We have gathered at the table and we wonder. It seems like such a long distance from Bethlehem's manger to the upper room, to Calvary, to the empty tomb. Yet it is here that your love comes full circle. The love

that gave us Mary's baby is the same love that gave us the teacher in the upper room who blessed the bread and the cup. Birth and death, life and new life are all one as you in Christ are one with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Sharing the Light of the Christ Candle

(Light your individual candles at home.)

*Hymn (GTG) No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

Verse 1 Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace;

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 3 Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Verse 2 Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born;

Christ the Savior is born."

Verse 4 Silent night, holy night!

Wondrous star, lend thy light;

With the angels let us sing,

Alleluia to our King;

Christ the Savior is born,

Christ the Savior is born.

*Benediction

Rev. Robin Lyn Valdez

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

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Robin Lyn Valdez, Pastor

The Reverend Chuck Schneider

Tak Yan Yeung, Musician

Liturgists:

Keith Royal

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