



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Bedford, Texas
Sunday, January 3, 2021
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 Christmas

10:00am

January 3, 2021

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Sheryl Taylor

Centering Words (*Isaiah 60:1,3*)

Rev. Elizabeth Lockhart

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and rulers to the brightness of your rising.”

Prelude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

*Call to Worship

Jayne Johnson

Lord, this year we will follow the Bethlehem star.

Star of wonder, star of night

Lord, this year we will follow the star of Hope and Peace.

Star with royal beauty bright

Lord, this year we will follow the star of Joy and Love.

Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Opening Prayer

Jayne Johnson

Gracious God, by the leading of a star you revealed your Son, Jesus Christ, to the gentiles; grant that your Church may be a light to the nations, so that the whole world may come and see the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession (Liturgist)

Jayne Johnson

Prayer of Confession

Jayne Johnson

Eternal God, our ancient story is filled with people who followed the signs you placed in their midst. In these dark times we have taken off our walking shoes and stopped looking to you as our sure and faithful guide. We have forgotten that you, our God, will make all things new and give us direction. We have stopped living in expectation. We no longer believe that you are doing new and beautiful things in our presence. Forgive us. Inspire us to open our eyes and look East! Forgive our doubt and help us to see that something new is coming. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Ken Richardson

Hear the Good News. In Christ we are forgiven and made new. Receive this news into your heart! Be at peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sung Response (GTG) No. 148 Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple EVENING HYMN

We Receive God's Word

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

(Anni Wordell and Sheryl Taylor, Soloists)

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14 (page 720, red Bible)

Jayne Johnson

Gospel Reading John 1:1-18 (page 966, red Bible)

Rev. Elizabeth Lockhart

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Emmanuel Star

Rev. Elizabeth Lockhart

*Hymn (GTG) No. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith - *(Peter Chrysologus, 5th century)*

Jayne Johnson

In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us. Today the magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the magi see clearly, in swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars. Today, we gaze in deep wonder at what the magi have seen: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As we look, we believe and do not question. We simply bring our gifts to the newborn king and lay them at his feet.

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation to the Offering

Jayne Johnson

Offertory

Interlude

Mark Hayes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

*Communion of the People

(We will serve communion this morning. Gather juice and bread from your home.)

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Elizabeth Lockhart

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and have made us one with Christ. Help us to be united as sisters and brothers. Help us to bring your unity, salvation, and joy to all your children in the world. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*Benediction

Rev. Elizabeth Lockhart

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

We Three Kings

arr. Bill Wolaver

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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



Worship Leaders

Reverend Elizabeth Lockhart, Guest Preacher

Susan LaPointe, Director of Music

Tak Yan Yeung, Accompanist

Liturgists:

Jayne Johnson

Ken Richardson

Sheryl Taylor

