



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Bedford, Texas
Sunday, January 31, 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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am

January 31, 2021

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Centering Words

Katie Phillips

"There's no such thing as neutral education. Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom." - Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Prelude

Moderato con moto ————— Cesar Franck

*Call to Worship

Katie Phillips

The Wisdom of God calls us to gather:

To learn from Love's teachers, ancient and new.

The Wisdom of God is a companion in discernment:

Our guide through eras painful and distressing.

In community, we seek the knowledge of heaven, that we might:

Be delivered from evil. Comfort and be comforted. Practice lasting transformation.

With hope, let us welcome the wisdom of God.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 662

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

*Opening Prayer

Katie Phillips

Delivering One, with humility, we pray for your guidance. In so many ways, we have been taught to seek wisdom in people and places resistant to your love that liberates. Authority has been handed out according to power and privilege. And yet, we know Christ does not seek the spotlight, fit the norm, nor climb ladders of success. May your Spirit help us to perceive trustworthy sources of your teaching for these days. Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession (Liturgist)

Katie Phillips

Prayer of Confession

Katie Phillips

Merciful God, you offer us a perfect love in Jesus Christ: forgive us for straying from you. You call us to love and serve as Christ's followers: forgive our unwillingness to hear the cries of others. You invite us to new life, abundant and free: forgive us for persisting in our sinful ways. In your mercy, God, redeem us.

Cleanse our hearts and minds of sin. Strengthen us with your love, and give us joy in your service, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Katie Phillips

*Sung Response (GTG) No. 27

Sacred the Body

TENDERNESS

(stanzas 1 and 4 only)

We Receive God's Word

Anthem

I Believe

Mark Miller

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28 (page 910, red Bible)

Katie Phillips

Old Testament Reading

Deut. 18:15-20 (page 174, red Bible)

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Importance of Truth

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

*Hymn (GTG) No. 737

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

LES PETITES SOEURS

We Experience God's Grace

***Affirmation of Faith** - *(The Confession of Belhar, Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.))*

Katie Phillips

We believe

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering

and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Lord's Prayer

Katie Phillips

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

Katie Phillips

Offertory

Grazioso

Georg Philipp

*Doxology

Glory to God Hymnal, page 606

Prayer of Dedication

Katie Phillips

God of Many Truths, Christian supremacy has done so much damage in your name. In ways we know and ways still imperceivable to us, we acknowledge the destruction entangled with our religion. We grieve our complicity and pray for our deliverance from all that has distorted our collective practices of love. For the prophets guiding our learning and unlearning, we bring our offerings with thanks. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

All Hail, King Jesus Majesty

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 Dr. Kyle Walker, Interim Pastor

Susan LaPointe, Director of Music

Tak Yan Yeung, Accompanist

Liturgists:

Katie Phillips

Ken Richardson



Resources consulted for today's worship include Liturgy that Matters and the online resources of "ReWorship"