



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, February 21, 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

First Sunday in Lent

10:00am

February 21, 2021

We Gather in Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Centering Words

John Field

*Beloved child,
Remember when we dipped our toes into the water?
Remember when we dove right in?
Remember when the ice cream dripped down our hands
And the cicadas sang their song,
And the seasons changed,
And the days were long?
Remember when we fell in love and the world was new?
Remember when our heart was broken?
Remember the tears?
Remember the long nights?
Remember when we laughed again and the sound surprised us?
Remember when we marched in the street?
Remember when we cast our vote?
Remember when we believed in hope?
Remember when?
I do.*

Prelude

Led by a Star

Garrett Parker

*Call to Worship

John Field

God meets us in the night—

Before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

God meets us in the light—

Where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, and where people gather around the table.

God meets us at the threshold—

At the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us in between—

Staying with us through the wilderness.

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of the here and now.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

*Opening Prayer

John Field

Incarnate One, in so many ways we have learned to minimize our potential. As individuals, a community - as people of faith. Letting others define our worth and capabilities, we deny our power. May your presence among us awaken and enliven all that you envision for us. That we may be faithful to you and the generations to come. Amen.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession (Liturgist)

John Field

Prayer of Confession

John Field

God who meets us where we are—

There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

You were with Jesus at his baptism.

You were with him in the wilderness,

And even in between, you were there,

Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

We know that you are with us too—

In the good, the bad, and everything in between—

But so often we act like we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt,

We hold it in or cast it onto others.

Instead of coming to you with our joy,

We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you

While living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways.

Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.

Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

John Field

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this: God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning, and God calls you beloved.

We are washed by the water. We are called beloved. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

We Receive God's Word

Anthem

The Lord's Prayer

arr. Albert Hay Malotte

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Children's Gathering

Leah Wyckoff

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15 (page 910, red Bible)

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

We Experience God's Grace

***Affirmation of Faith**

John Field

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here; bigger than the sky and in the smallest details; all at once and in every moment. We believe that God meets us where we are— In heartbreak and high hopes, around crowded tables and in quiet homes, in joy and in suffering, in loneliness and in connection, in sanctuaries and in living rooms, in marches and in waiting rooms. We believe that nothing we do or leave undone can distance us from God's love. God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in. Again and again, God meets us where we are and invites us into wholeness. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker

The Lord's Prayer

John Field

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

John Field

