



# *Welcome Celebration for Bishop & Maye Saenz*

**2 P.M. SATURDAY, FEB 5  
GRACE METHODIST-METROPLEX**



## Gathering

### Processional Hymn

My hope is built on nothing less Than  
Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils his lovely face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil

On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
Supports me in the 'whelming flood  
When all around my soul gives way  
He then is all my hope and stay

On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in his righteousness alone  
Faultless to stand before the throne

On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

*"My Hope Is Built"*  
Hymn #368

Grace Methodist - Metroplex  
Praise Team



## **Greeting & Opening Prayer**

**Darlene Alfred,  
CTC Lay Leader**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray

People: Eternal God, by your grace you have set  
us together in your Church, whose  
foundation is your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant your continuing grace, we pray,  
to all who exercise leadership

in your Church, that they may with  
diligence and faithfulness

fulfill their various ministries;

and grant that we your people may follow  
them where you lead and minister  
faithfully in the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Act of Praise**

**Grace Methodist - Metroplex  
Praise Team**

## **Psalter**

**Psalm 100  
Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the  
Lord, all the earth. Worship the  
Lord with gladness;  
Come into his presence with singing.

People: Know that  
the Lord is God. It is  
he that made us, and  
we are his; we are  
his people, and the  
sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his  
courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his  
name.

People: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love  
endures forever, and his faithfulness to all  
generations.

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Rev. Fred Bates**

## Old Testament Lesson

**Ezekiel 34:11-16**

Rev. Fred Bates

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

## New Testament Lesson

**Titus 1:7-9**

Nellie Lucano

<sup>7</sup>For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; <sup>8</sup>but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. <sup>9</sup>He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

## The Gospel

**John 21:15-17**

Rev. Sela Finau

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

## Introduction of Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. & Mrs. Mayé Saenz

**Kim Simpson and**

**Dr. Tim Bruster**

*Leader to Bishop:*

Bishop Saenz,  
you have been consecrated to be a shepherd and servant,  
and you have now been assigned as bishop of the Fort Worth  
Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church.

*Leader to the representatives of Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy:*

Who will present Bishop Saenz for welcome to this area?

*Representatives of Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy:*  
We, the Central Texas Conference representatives of the South-Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, do certify that Bishop Saenz has been assigned by the South-Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy to the Fort Worth Episcopal Area.

We, therefore, present to this congregation Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. to be welcomed to the area to which he has been assigned.

## **The Covenant Service**

Leader:

The Church is the community of those called by God, justified by grace, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We who are baptized into Christ's death and raised with Christ in the resurrection are living members of the body of Christ who return thanksgiving to God in ministries of worship, nurture, witness, and service.

A bishop has been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament; and to represent Christ's servanthood in a special ministry of oversight.

A bishop is called to guard the faith, to seek the unity, and to exercise the discipline of the whole Church; and to supervise and support the Church's life, work, and mission throughout the world.

As a servant of the whole Church, the bishop is called to preach and teach the truth of the gospel to all God's people; to lead the people in worship, in the celebration of the Sacraments, and in their mission of witness and service in the world, and so participate in the gospel command to make disciples of all nations.

The bishop is to lead and guide all persons entrusted to his supervision; join in the consecration of bishops, commission provisional members, ordain deacons and elders, commission deaconesses, home missionaries, and missionaries for service to the Church and to the world, and provide for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregations committed to his/her care.

Let the shepherd who has been called now affirm these ministries in our midst.

Bishop Saenz:

With God's help, I promise faithfully to hear and to proclaim God's Word, and rightly administer the Sacraments, as your pastor and servant.

**People:**

**With God's help, we promise to join with you in the life of praise and thanksgiving, and in the faithful use of the means of grace that God has given us.**

Bishop Saenz:

By the grace of Christ, I promise to be among you as a teacher of the faith, a pastor of souls, and a means to the unity of the body of Christ.

**People:**

**By the grace of Christ, we promise to join with you in the life of learning, in the nurturing of God's people, and in the seeking of that oneness in Christ which is Christ's gift to us.**

Bishop Saenz:

In the power of the Holy Spirit, I promise to be for you a means of reconciliation and healing, that all those who are burdened or oppressed may be made whole and able to rejoice in the new life in Jesus Christ.

**People:**

**In the power of the Holy Spirit, we promise to be, with you, faithful witnesses, serving justice, showing mercy, and in all things proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Leaders:

Let the people say "Amen."

**People:**

**Amen and amen!**

## Presentation of Signs of Episcopal Ministry

### Pastoral Staff

Bishop Saenz, take this pastoral staff,  
and be upheld and sustained by Christ the Good Shepherd  
as you exercise the ministry of a shepherd among us in Christ's Name.  
**Amen.**

Makayla May Bartholomew

### Bible

Bishop Saenz, take this Bible, and proclaim fearlessly the prophetic  
Word in the cause of justice and peace for all people. **Amen.**

Isabel Roberson

### Water

Bishop Saenz, take this water, be renewed in your baptism and  
renew us in ours. **Amen.**

December Phillips

### Bread and Cup

Bishop Saenz, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion  
with Christ and his Church. **Amen.**

Charlotte Evers

### Towel and Basin

Bishop Saenz, take this towel  
and basin, and be among us as  
one who serves. **Amen.**

Emanuel Enriquez

### Stole

Bishop Saenz, take this stole, and be our pastor, preacher, and  
teacher; encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and  
ministries, and pray for them without ceasing. **Amen.**

Xitlalie Ibarra

### Book of Discipline

Bishop Saenz, take this *Book of Discipline*, guard  
the faith, seek the unity, exercise the discipline of  
the whole Church, and supervise the Church's life,  
work, and mission throughout the world. **Amen.**

Eli Evers

### Gavel

Bishop Saenz, take this gavel,  
and preside in our Annual Conference;  
appoint pastors and assign diaconal ministers to their ministries, and  
guide us in our common mission of love and justice, witness and service.  
**Amen.**

Lain Phillips

Leader:

Bishop Saenz, these are the signs of your ministry among the people of the Fort Worth Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church. Faithfully administer discipline, but do not forget mercy, that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the never-fading crown of glory.

Bishop Saenz:

In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, I gladly assume, with you and among you, this ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order, of pastoral supervision, government, and service. Strengthened by the love of God, and the remembrance of my consecration to the episcopacy, I am resolved to serve faithfully and well the congregations and people of the Fort Worth Episcopal Area as bishop, pastor, and friend.

People:

On behalf of the congregations and people, we receive you, Bishop Saenz, with joy and thanksgiving, as our bishop and pastor.

We pledge to you our prayers, our loyalty, and our support as you lead us in the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us all.

## Welcome and Acclamation

Leader:

Welcome your bishop!

*The people acclaim their bishop with applause or other signs.*

## Sermon

*The Feast of Homecoming*  
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

## Prayer

Steve McIver

O God, Shepherd and Ruler of the faithful, look with favor on your servant Ruben Saenz, whom your Church has assigned bishop and chief pastor of the Fort Worth Episcopal Area.

Grant that, by word and example, he may assist those among whom he is placed, so that he and the people entrusted to his care may fulfill the promise that they have made this day; grow together in unity, love, and service; and at last attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Offering

Relief for the People of Tonga  
Dr. Clifton Howard

On Jan. 14 and 15, a volcanic eruption in the Pacific, very near Tonga, created tsunami waves estimated to be as much as 39 feet high. The ash from the volcano and the water from the tsunami have been described as catastrophic. Many lives were lost, many families displaced, much property was destroyed, and the environment (air quality and land for crops) has been severely altered. Needless to say, the people of Tonga need compassion and support. The offering we receive today will be used to help the people of Tonga recover from the devastation caused by the volcano and tsunami. As many of our Central Texas Conference Tongan brothers and sisters have family in Tonga, we pray for their healing and recovery in the days and months to come. May the Spirit guide us to give with cheerful generosity.

You may also give electronically by sending a text to 833-916-1347 and entering the amount you'd like to give and the word "Tonga."  
Full instructions are found on the last page of this worship guide.

## Holy Communion

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.  
Rev. Carol B. Roberts

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and instituted a holy ministry so that your prophetic and apostolic Word might be heard in the Church and in the world until the end of time.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce  
that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of your flock, ascended, he sent forth the apostles  
to preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations. He promised to be with them always,  
and sent the Holy Spirit to lead them.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you  
and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry  
to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **Breaking the Bread**

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

## **Giving the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer after Receiving**

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious Lord, for giving yourself to us, and for uniting us in the communion of your Holy Spirit.

We bless you for raising up among us your faithful servants.

Clothe them with your righteousness and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn/Congregational Song

Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made  
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

### Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God  
to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think  
that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

### \*\*Chorus

When Christ shall come,  
with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

### \*\*Chorus

*How Great Thou Art, Hymn  
#77  
Grace Methodist - Metroplex  
Praise Team*

## Dismissal with Blessing

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

## Going Forth

*Following the worship service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for a reception welcoming Bishop and Mrs. Saenz.*

*We are grateful to Grace Metroplex - Methodist Church for hosting today's service and for the many individuals who worked together on this service and reception.*

## Text to Give Instructions

- Can only be completed using a device that has texting capabilities
- Go to Texting App
- Create a new text
- In the "To" field enter the following phone number - 833-916-1347.
- In the message field, enter amount to give and then Tonga (no dollar sign is needed)
- Hit Send
- If first time, you will receive a text stating that you are almost done and need to go to website to complete the transaction - this is a registration link
- Click on the link in the text
- Fill out the required fields, such as name, address, email and credit or debit card information
- Click on process button
- When complete, you will receive a text thanking you for your donation
- If you want to give more, use the same phone number, enter an amount in the message field and hit send
- You will not need to re-enter your information as it already stored for you
- You will receive a text thanking you for your donation
- If you have any questions or issues, please see Greg Carey or Theresa Wright



FEB. 19, 2022

*First Methodist Waco*

9a.m. – 3:30p.m.

