



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 15, 2026

10:00am

Welcome to this service of worship. We are glad you are here whether it is in person or online. Children are welcome for all aspects of our worship service and church life. To aid people of all ages, including children, in worship participation, a Liturgical Library is available in the narthex to the right of the sanctuary door with tools for engaging the senses in worship, including drawing and movement tools. 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.

### Mission Statement

L- Loving

I- Inclusive

F- Family of Faith

E- Empowering People in Christ

-seeking justice

-loving kindness

-walking humbly (Micah 6:8)

We are a certified PCUSA Earth Care Congregation:

- Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.
- Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing creation.
- Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all of creation.
- Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

# Celebration of Worship

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00am

March 15, 2026

## We Gather in Worship

### Greeting and Announcements

*[Please note your nearest exit. Silence your cell phones. Restrooms are available behind the sanctuary in the narthex. Remember to add your prayer requests on the sheets provided for inclusion in the Prayers of the People or online by scanning the QR code here.]*



### Centering Words

*For centuries, those who were hungry for God ventured into wilderness places – geographical and spiritual deserts – to quiet the noise of the world and draw near to God. Long before our culture’s obsession with productivity, there were women and men who withdrew from the noise of empire and ego to listen deeply to God. They were called the Desert Mothers and Fathers—early Christian mystics who chose obscurity over acclaim, simplicity over striving, and presence over performance. And that’s exactly why we need their wisdom now. Their rhythms were slow. Their prayers were embodied. Their spirituality was rooted not in productivity, but in presence. They remind us: You are not what you produce. The body is sacred ground. Silence is not empty—it is full of God. Rest is resistance, and it is holy. Their lives challenge us to practice The Way of Jesus not as a theology only, but as a rhythm – a lived experience in the nervous system, the breath, the bone. Their desert wasn’t barren; it was alive with sacred encounter. It still is.*

Prelude

Create in Me A Clean Heart

Arr. Mark Hayes

\*Call to Worship

The dust that shapes the journey,  
**the cross that guides it,**  
the color that surrounds it,  
**the light that fades through it,**  
the Word that foretells it,  
**the wilderness that invites it.**  
This is Lent,  
**and into its wilderness**  
**God calls us.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Come, rest in truth before the God who knows your name, who loves you and brings you companions for the journey of life.

## Prayer of Confession

**Caring God, we confess that we have not loved this world well. We have not loved ourselves. We have dismissed concepts of love as naïve, failing to recognize the wisdom in choosing tenderness and attachment in a society that trains us to exploit one another. We confess we are afraid, lacking the courage to risk ourselves on love for fear of losing it. Forgive us. Have mercy on all our charades of heartlessness, that we would claim a life of more than mere survival. That we would love and be loved in return, all our days, in love's many forms.**

*(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession) Amen.*

Sung Response (GTG) No. 183 *(verses 1 and 2)* Come to Me, O Weary Traveler CALM SEAS

*Come to me, o weary traveler; come to me in your distress;*

*come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest.*

*Do not fear, my yoke is easy; do not fear my burden's light;*

*do not fear the path before you; do not run from me in fright.*

## Assurance of Pardon

Let your soul receive this rest: Forgive yourself, choose self-compassion over unlove. Be assured by the divine that, despite your deepest doubts, you are loveable. That you are adored by God, as they look upon your face and swell with delight. **As we are nourished by astounding mercy, so we also extend it, remembering that we are healed by both love received and love given. Amen.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 13 (page 1047, red Bible)

Anthem Ask of Me from *A Gathering of Grace*  
*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 18:1-5 (page 259, red Bible)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Title Spiritual Companionship Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 693 Though I May Speak GIFT OF LOVE

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith *The Order of St. Columba*

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,  
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,  
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess it in Jesus the Christ. Amen

Prayers of the People and 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 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

*[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code here.]*



Offertory

Spirit of Grace

Ben Logan

\*Doxology

Glory to God Hymnal, page 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Guide and our God. Show us how to be spiritual companions to one another, bearing all loads, offering all our love. Amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*You are encouraged to remain and enjoy the postlude as a moment of prayer and worship before departing today.*

\*Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth

Arr. Ethel Tench Rogers

*All are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with one another over refreshments in the narthex following this service.*

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

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

Liturgy by Jennifer Axcell, Roddy Hamilton, Cole Arthur Riley, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Joanna Harader.



**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor  
Brittney Axton, Director of Music  
Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist  
Emmanuel Chancel Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:  
Elaine Hsieh, Liturgist  
Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering