



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 1, 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 Second Sunday in Lent

10:00am

March 1, 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

Come and Sing Praises

Arr. Bill Wolaver

\*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. 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT’S LEIGH

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Come, weary traveler, find your way home again to God, and your truest selves, and a community that sees you.

## Prayer of Confession

**God our home, we are lost. We have mistaken an untethered life for an awakened one. We roam from place to place at great cost to the earth beneath us, believing that we will *find* ourselves. We have made a performance out of pretending like we are not a product of where we once called home. We have failed to contend with how our own actions render a space more or less welcoming or safe. Forgive us our escapism and neglect, and in your mercy let us encounter the places we come from without turning against ourselves.**

*(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: the God who made dirt and sky, stone and sand, is present with us wherever we find ourselves. **We believe that the divine can restore our relationships to place, that we would be free to leave and free to remain, not out of greed but out of an understanding for all that forms us.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:14-20 (page 884, red Bible)

Anthem

On Eagle's Wings

arr. Douglas E Wagner

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 91 (page 537, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

Being Where We Are

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

## 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**

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

Interlude

Mark Hayes

\*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

**Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you  
for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has  
sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne  
with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, and to be  
thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Communion Liturgy

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(Minister continues praying)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

**Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread**

**\*Communion of the People**

*(Please come forward using the center aisle and return to your seats using the side aisle. If you are not able  
to come forward, remain in your seat and you will be served. Gluten free bread and cup are available on the  
small table in the center aisle.)*

## We Leave to Serve

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 543      God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me      GREEN TYLER

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

\*Postlude      Postlude in F      Ashford

*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, Book of Common Worship.

### 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:

Mary Jane Horr, Liturgist

Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

