



March  
29, 2026



PALM *Sunday*



Emmanuel  
Presbyterian  
Church



Cover Art by Caroline Renee Loy



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, March 29, 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

Palm Sunday

10:00am

March 29, 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

Tower Praises  
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

\*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. 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor  
(joyfully wave palms during this hymn)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

We draw near to God and each other not with ego, but with humility, asking for help when we need it, and forgiveness when we need it. God always meets our honesty with grace.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of the Palms, thank you for drawing near to us. We have known what it is to encounter “help” that isn’t truly help. Thank you for showing us a different way: a God who rejects privilege, a God who is unbothered by sitting on a donkey if it means you are drawing near to us. As we wait, take away the fear that has settled on our souls. Help us to trust in the arrival of goodness even in the wake of suffering. Let this Palm Sunday speak the language of welcome; that we would never turn hope away when it appears to us.**

*(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 AUSTIN

*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

Do not be afraid. Liberation is coming: not with power and might but with humility and goodness. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Gathering

Leah Wyckoff

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-10, 16-17 (page 869, red Bible)

Anthem

Palm Branches

Douglas Nolan

*From a Gathering of Grace  
(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-11 (pages 877-878, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title Humility and the World of Others

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 819

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

## 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

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

**We will hold nothing back from you this day, God of our lives. We offer all of  
ourselves that we might be a people ignited by your vision of a world set right.  
Use all these gifts, and the gift of radical humility, in your name, amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

*(joyfully wave palms during this hymn)*

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

\*Postlude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Jason W. Krug

*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

Emmanuel Bell Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Leah Wyckoff, Children's Gathering

