



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, May 3, 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 5th Sunday of Easter

10:00am

May 3, 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. Add your prayer requests on the sheets in the friendship pad for inclusion in the Prayers of the People by placing them in the offering plate at the back, or online by scanning the QR code here. A note on worship bulletin symbols: *please rise in body or spirit. (GTG) – purple Glory to God Hymnal under the seat in front of you. Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.*



Centering Words

What are we going to be when we grow up? Not what are we going to do, what profession are we going to follow or keep on following, what niche are we going to occupy in the order of things. But what are we going to be – inside ourselves and among ourselves? That is the question that God answers with the Torah at Sinai. That is the question that the old saint answers in his letter from Rome. Holy. That is what we are going to be if God gets God's way with us. It is wildly unreasonable because it makes a shambles out of all our reasonable ambitions to be this or to be that. But being holy is what growing up in the full sense means, Peter suggests. No matter how old we are or how much we have achieved or dream of achieving still, we are not truly grown up until this extraordinary thing happens. Holiness is what is to happen. So that by God's grace we may "grow up to salvation" at last. The way the light falls through the windows. The sounds our silence makes when we come together like this. The sense we have of each other's presence. The feeling in the air that one way or another we are all of us here to give each other our love, and to give God our love. This kind moment itself is a door that holiness enters through. May it enter you. May it enter me. To the world's saving.

Prelude

Morning Song

Robert W. Thygerson

*Call to Worship *adapted from Psalm 96*

O sing to God a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

For great is the Creator and greatly to be praised;

God is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but God made the heavens.

Say among the nations, "God reigns.

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar and all that fills it;

let the field exult and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Creator, for God is coming,
for God is coming to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, draw near to the One who made you, the One who judges the world with righteousness, inviting us to be a people of truth and equity, reflecting the diverse abundance of God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

Hear the brokenness of our lives, God of mercy. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can against those we see as enemies, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news. Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. Clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon

You are no longer alone - you are God's Beloved. You are part of God's family. You, who know what it is to be without hope, have been filled with God's mercy and love.

Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. We are a forgiven, redeemed, and whole people by God's grace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (pages 495, 496, red Bible)

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. 177

I Will Come to You

YOU ARE MINE

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Church Bells

Rosemary Hadler

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

Liturgy by: Frederick Buechner, Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir Ladies



Assisting in Today's Service:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering

