



## **Emmanuel Presbyterian Church**

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**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 parents and children attending in person, children's bulletins and activity bags are available from the ushers. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

10:00am

May 4, 2025

## 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

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy . . . grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Prelude

Seek Ye First

Arr. Mark Zeeman

### \*Call to Worship

Curious and doubting,  
**Excited and exhausted,**  
Faithful and fearful,  
**We come to this holy place.**  
But more importantly, in this holy place,  
**God comes, making all places holy.**  
Overwhelming us with grace,  
**Setting our feet on the right path,**  
Restoring our ability to see each other, and ourselves.  
**Let us come to the God who comes to us, and worship.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Why are you carrying so much this day? Why are you weighed down with the bitterness, the guilt, the judgment that was never yours to hold? Come, lay down your burdens before God, as we confess our sin, following the way of life once more.

## Prayer of Confession

**How hard we try to be good, how passionately we defend our truth, how strongly we draw our lines, how bravely we denounce wrong. But, how easily we miss the point. Forgive us, God, when we misunderstand our calling; when we think it serves you to make violent threats against those we disagree with, to go to war for the sake of our truth, to seek to bend all others to our way of thinking and being. Heal and restore those who have been wounded by us, shamed by us, suspected by us, misunderstood by us, slandered by us. Come to us, Jesus, each on our own Damascus Road, stop us in our tracks, soften our hearts, show us yourself, and help us to fulfill our calling in a way that does justice to your gracious love.**

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 578                      O Lord, Have Mercy                      ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKŌ

*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

Hear this good news, and feel it in your body:

You are not stuck; you are awaiting the newness God will show.

You are not forgotten; you are beloved and remembered.

You are not alone; God walks with you in every moment,  
on every road, no matter how hard.

**We are a forgiven people, called to create a kinder world!**

**We walk with Jesus, and each other. Amen.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Melissa Durkee

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 30 (pages 494-495, red Bible)

Anthem

And Can It Be?

arr. Dan Forrest

*(Soloist: Brittney Axton)*

Gospel Reading

Acts 9:1-20 (pages 1000-1001, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

A Shared Salvation

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 695

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

*(sung twice; first in English then in Spanish)*

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith    *Belhar Confession*

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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

**Today, God, we offer our compassion for all who are carrying heavy loads. We offer our inclusion for all who are left out. We offer our welcome for all who seek to find a home of safety. We offer our faith for all who long to know you remember them. We offer our resources, our hands, our feet, our lives for a world made whole, in your name, amen.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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. #770      I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table      WELCOME TABLE

### \*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

\*Postlude      Morning Song      Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*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: St. Francis of Assisi, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, John Van De Laar.*

### 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:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Melissa Durkee, Children's Gathering

