



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, May 17, 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 Ascension of the Lord

10:00am

May 17, 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

*All that is eternal in me welcomes the wonder of this day. The field of brightness it creates, offering time for each thing to arise and illuminate. I place on the altar of dawn: the quiet loyalty of breath, the tent of thought where I shelter. May my mind come alive today to the invisible geography that invites me to new frontiers: to break the dead shell of yesterdays, to risk being disturbed and changed. May I have the courage today to live the life that I would love, to postpone my dream no longer, but do at last what I came here for. And waste my heart on fear no more.*

Prelude

Spirit Song

Arr. Mark Zeeman

### \*Call to Worship

God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears;  
who rescued us from captivity and fear:

**we are here to thank you.**

God of the future, who is tearing down the old world,  
and building your kingdom in our midst:

**we are here because we trust you.**

God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity,  
creates us to be one people:

**we are here to praise you.**

God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

**we celebrate your grace.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

## We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Confession is not a weighing down, but a lightening of our loads. We unburden ourselves before the God and the people we trust and move with greater ease into this day that is God's gift to us.

#### Prayer of Confession

**We in the church are worshipping process, busily making our lists and listing our busy-ness, in danger of sacrificing our souls for our schedules. Task-forced, agenda-bleary, paper-logged, we look for God in the boardroom and salvation in committee. When process becomes more important than people, it's time to break through to the poetry of promise. It's never too late to return to the Poet, whose sky sings stars, whose earth dances green, whose promise writes love upon our hearts. We will return to you, O God, Poet of our souls.**

*(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 *adapted from Isaiah 40:28*

Hear the good news: it is not all up to us! Jesus is at work in ways we cannot even yet see, and we, as his disciples, are invited to partner with him in the works of healing, justice, and peace. **We are set free from our own self-importance to embrace a life God has long ago prepared for us. Thanks be to God!**

### **We Receive God's Word**

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading                      Psalm 68:1-10 (page 518, red Bible)

Anthem    He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Soloists: Sheryl Taylor, Jude Langsdorf

New Testament Reading                      Acts 1:6-14 (page 991, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title                      In the Same Way                      Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 683                      Lord of All Hopefulness

COURTNEY

### **We Experience God's Grace**

\*Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed, hymnal page 35*

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

**Patient Christ, receive all these gifts, those material and those immaterial, for the building up of your family of belonging and compassion, and for the rebuilding of this world in your name, 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 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.*

*Liturgy by: John O Donohue, Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Ann Weems.*

### **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

Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

