



## **Emmanuel Presbyterian Church**

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

**Sunday, May 18, 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10:00am

May 18, 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

*Open to it and you will know how love is its own blessing and most ancient of laws. Pursue it entirely, with everything in you. Your heart (all). Your soul (all). Your mind (all). Spend it all— this love so generous this love that goes out to each it finds; this love that gives itself in lavish and unimagined measure; everywhere and to all— yourself, not least.*

Prelude

Oh, How He Loves You And Me

Arr. Mark Hayes

\*Call to Worship *Psalms 148*

Praise the Lord from the heavens:

**praise God in the heights above.**

Praise God, all the angels:

**praise God, all the heavenly host.**

Praise God, sun and moon:

**praise God, all you shining stars.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the earth:

**praise God, great sea creatures.**

Praise God, storms and clouds:

**praise God, mountains and hills.**

Praise God, fields and woods:

**praise God, animals and birds.**

Praise God, rulers and nations:

**praise God, old and young.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

**Praise the Lord!**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

We take a moment each Sunday in worship to confess our sin. This is not a time to dwell on our guilt, or feel we are worth very little. This is a time where our honesty is met with God's abundant grace, as we seek healthier paths for ourselves, and the world.

### Prayer of Confession

**We let go: window and door, house and home, memory and fear. We let go of the hurt of the past and look to the hope of the future. We let go knowing that we will always carry parts of our past with us, woven into the story of our life. Help us, Christ our brother, to softly fold inside the grief and sadness, to pack away the pain, and to move on; taking each day in your company; traveling each step in your 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

This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for you and for all.

Whatever you have done, whatever you have failed to do,

whoever you are, whoever you wish you were but are not: you are loved.

**We are accepted, we are welcomed.**

**We are washed clean, we are raised up.**

**We are forgiven, we are set free.**

**In the love of Jesus Christ, we are loved forever.**

**Thanks be to God!**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Acts 11:1-18 (page 1003, red Bible)

Anthem

The Greatest Commands

arr. Janice Detweiler & Peggy West

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35 (page 982, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

What Does Love Look Like?

Sharon Curry, CP

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

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

*\*Affirmation of Faith    The Confession of 1967*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God's love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of love.**

**God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with human beings. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. . . Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.**

*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*

**Jesus, What a Wonder You Are**

*Arr. Bruce Greer*

*\*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 offer these gifts, and the gifts of our lives to you, O God, Source of all life, Source of all love. Use them, and these weary, worn hearts for the loving of a world you never give up on, and for the loving of a community hungry for bread and belonging. Open our hearts more than we ever thought possible, that in loving more, we might find, in you, always more to give. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

*\*Hymn (GTG) No. 300    They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love*

*THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS*

*\*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.*

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.

*Liturgy by Jan Richardson, Iona Community Scotland, Marci Auld Glass, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.*

*We are delighted to welcome Sharon Curry, the West Regional Ministry Associate from Grace Presbytery as our supply preacher today!*

**Worship Leaders**

Sharon Curry, CP, Guest Preacher

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:

John Stocking, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

