



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, May 25, 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 6th Sunday of Easter

10:00am

May 25, 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

When I am among the trees, especially the willows and the honey locust, equally the beech, the oaks and the pines, they give off such hints of gladness, I would almost say that they save me, and daily. I am so distant from the hope of myself, in which I have goodness, and discernment, and never hurry through the world but walk slowly, and bow often. Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, "Stay awhile." The light flows from their branches. And they call again, "It's simple," they say, "and you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer William Bradbury Arr. by Melody Bober

*Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of the living God.

**May our worship join with all creation
in praising our Creator.**

We celebrate the beauty and importance of the trees God has made.

**May the worship of our hearts be reflected in the worship of our lives,
as we join with the trees of the field that clap their hands,
and the forests that sing for joy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

We come before God and each other longing to be like a well-watered garden. We open ourselves to be pruned by God's Spirit, that shaped by grace, we might shelter all who seek refuge and peace.

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you planted a world of beauty and variety, filled with trees for food and shade. We have turned forests into deserts, and many living trees into disposable consumer products. We confess our selfishness in misusing your handiwork to resource our greed. Spirit of God, you make all things new, causing seeds to grow, buds to blossom, fruit to ripen. Sow within us the seeds of repentance and humility, to live gently within the community of creation, and to bring forth the fruit of your kingdom of justice and peace.

(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

Let this good news sink deeply into the roots of your life, saturating it with grace:

You are forgiven; a new creation!

We are lovingly tended by our Creator, and new life blooms forth, even before we can see it. Thanks be to God!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 2:4-17(page 2, red Bible)

Anthem Jesus Christ the Apple Tree arr. Elizabeth Poston
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

New Testament Reading Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5 (pages 1132, 1133, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title Among the Trees Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 250	In the Bulb There Is a Flower	PROMISE
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We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism*

What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty and ever-present power of God

by which God upholds, as with God's hand,

heaven and earth

and all creatures,

and so rules them that

leaf and blade,

rain and drought,

fruitful and lean years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
prosperity and poverty —
all things, in fact,
are in God's hand.

We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God
that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love.
For all creatures are so completely in God's hand
that without God's will
they can neither move nor be moved.

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 or using the QR code here.]*



Offertory He Leadeth Me William Bradbury Arr. Melody Bober

*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

**God our Maker, Spirit our Guide, Jesus our Friend, use all we offer this day for
the healing of the nations, the restoration of communities, and abundant life of
all creatures. Renew in us a fresh understanding of our place in all of creation,
and our interdependence with all life, in your name, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 625

O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude What A Friend We Have In Jesus Charles Converse Arr. Melody Bober

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 Mary Oliver, A Rocha, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Jessy Lee, Pianist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering

