



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, June 29, 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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

June 29, 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

God of wild love and extravagant acceptance, Spirit of boldness and beauty, You are faithfully present in both the grit and glitter of life, and you are present here with us now. Awaken us to your dream for creation: A world in which every member of the human family is free to flourish however you have made them. Forgive us for the moments we have held back your ever-flowing current of love, dignity, and justice. Remake us into a people eager to see you in the faces, bodies, and expressions of all people. Remind each of us to step out of the shadows of our lives and shine fearlessly and courageously. Ignite the Divine Light within us to sparkle through the prism of our bodies, and brighten every corner of this earth. Holy One, You call each of us beloved. Each of us cherished. Each of us desired. Each of us sacred. And so, we give you thanks now and forever. Amen.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Susan W. Henry

*Call to Worship

Come and worship,
all you who love and serve the Lord:
outsiders and insiders,
old-timers and newcomers,
the younger, older, and the in-between.
Come as you are,
for this is God's house:
a house of prayer for all people,
and God welcomes each one who comes.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Confessing our sin is a washing clean: inviting the waters of God's grace to flow through the dusty corners of our lives and this world. Here, we joyfully claim that nothing separates us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Here, we start fresh.

Prayer of Confession

God our Creator, we confess the ways we have limited our imaginations of your creation. We have so often formed you in our image, rather than recognize your image in those who have been labeled as different, other, or wrong. Forgive our short-sightedness, and the harm we have caused to our siblings who love and exist differently in the world than we do, be it by intention or by silence. Expand our hearts beyond the rigid lines we set in the name of faith. Open us by your Spirit to a fresh learning, a baptism of awareness, and an awakening to the radical belonging you bring to all people, in Jesus' name.

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 551 Lord, Have Mercy (*sung twice*) LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

As the faithful eunuch said in Acts:

Look, here is water! The waters of grace for all people, the waters of belonging for each one, the waters of abundance for all who thirst for the freedom to exist and to love.

Look, here is water! We are washed clean, made whole, and named beloved by God. Look, here is water! We will take this good news of grace, belonging, and abundance to all the earth.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 56:1-8 (pages 672-673, red Bible)

Anthem Joyful Noise Pepper Choplin
(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

New Testament Reading Acts 8:26-40 (page 1000, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title LGBTQIA+ Affirmation in Scripture: The Ethiopian Eunuch
Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 315 In the Midst of New Dimensions NEW DIMENSIONS

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *The Confession of 1967*

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ
 has set the pattern for the church's mission.
 His life as a human involves the church in the common life of humanity.
 His service to humanity commits the church to work
 for every form of human well-being.
 His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of humankind
 so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need.
 His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on people's
 inhumanity to each other and the awful consequences of
 its own complicity in injustice.
 In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,
 the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life
 in society and of God's victory over all wrong.
 The church follows this pattern in the form of its life
 and in the method of its action.
 So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.
 The institutions of the people of God change and vary as their mission
 requires in different times and places. The unity of the church is compatible
 with a wide variety of forms, but it is hidden and distorted
 when variant forms are allowed to harden into sectarian divisions,
 exclusive denominations, and rival factions.
 Jesus Christ has given the church preaching and teaching, praise and prayer,
 and Baptism and the Lord's Supper as means of fulfilling its service of God
 among people. These gifts remain, but the church is obliged to change the
 forms of its service in ways appropriate to different generations and cultures.

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

Meditation on a Folk Song

arr. Joseph Martin

*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

In freedom we make our offering today, Abundant God, for the loosing of all chains of injustice, and for the remaking of a world until difference is met with curiosity and openness rather than fear. Accept all we give this day, that with a little, you might do more than we can dream or imagine. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

My Hope Is Built/It Is Well

arr. Carlie Toliver

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 Sam Lundquist, re:worship, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Carlie Toliver, Pianist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Tonia Thompson, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

