



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

E m p o w e r i n g P e o p l e i n C h r i s t

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, July 26, 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

July 26, 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 Anne Lamott

Paradox means you have to be able to keep two wildly different ideas in your head at the same time. But all truth really is paradox, and this turns out to be a reason for hope. If you arrive at a place in life that is miserable, it will change, and something else about it will also be true. So paradox is an invitation to go deeper into life, to see a bigger screen, instead of the nice, safe lower left quadrant where you see work, home, and the country. Try a wider reality, through curiosity, awareness, and breath. Try actually being here. We remember that because truth is paradox, something beautiful is also going on. So while trusting that and waiting for revelation, we do the next right thing. We tell the truth. We march, make dinner, have rummage sales to raise relief funds. We take one loud step back into hope. We remember mustard seeds, that the littlest things will have great results. We do the smallest, realest, most human things. We water that which is dry.

Prelude

As the Deer/Fairest Lord Jesus

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

On this day of worship, we call on God's name,
and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.
Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,
and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.
In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,
and receive that grace which is as old as creation,
yet as fresh as each morning.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 17 Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done. But God would draw us closer to the heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace.

Prayer of Confession

What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of Our Hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you. Forgive us, God of mercy. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything that separates us from you. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are forgiven! (Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession) Amen.

Sung Response (GTG) No. 626

As the Deer

AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us. The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace. The One who could punish us, prays for us.

Now we know there is nothing, not a thing, that can separate us from God.

Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 29:15-28 (page 25, red Bible)

Anthem

Oboe Concerto in C minor, mvmt 2

Benedetto Marcello

(Soloist: Nathan Ingram)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (pages 890, 891, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

Pass the Mustard

Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins

*Hymn (GTG) No. 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Avery Arden*

**We believe in God the Conceiver of the Cosmos,
who with a Word and a Breath
burst the universe into expansion
from one small seed.**

We believe that God pervades and sustains
 all created things with all-embracing love.
 As Julian of Norwich wrote:
 "[God] showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut,
 lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed.
 And it was as round as any ball. I thought, 'What may this be?'
 And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.'
 I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly
 have fallen to nothing for littleness.
 And I was answered in my understanding:
 It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it.
 And so have all things their beginning by the love of God."
 We believe that this God of love is the God
 the God of the mustard seed
 and of the cedar tree.
 In deep love for us, God was grafted to us,
 joined us in the beautiful frailness of our flesh
 in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.
 Jesus drew all peoples to him;
 And we remain engrafted to Divinity
 through the Holy Spirit who dwells among us still,
 breathing life and wisdom into us
 so that we might do God's will
 as many branches reaching from one tree,
 many members enriching one Body.
 Amen.

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

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

Wherever they are - the broken, the unhoused, those without hope, those in need of justice - you are with them, O God. Not just with them, but healing them, caring for them, feeding them, and sustaining them with all the gifts offered to you by so many, including ours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Toccata in E minor

Pachelbel

All are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with one another over refreshments in the narthex following this service.

Liturgy by: Anne Lamott, Thom Shuman, Avery Arden.

We are delighted to welcome our guest preacher today, Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins!

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins, Guest Preacher

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Soloist: Dr. Nathan Ingram

Assisting in Today's Service:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

