



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, July 13, 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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

July 13, 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 *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of humanity. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered people have torn down people other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day humankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every person shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome!

Prelude

Bist du bei mir

J. S. Bach

*Call to Worship *adapted from Psalm 96*

O sing to God a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

For great is the Creator and greatly to be praised;

God is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but God made the heavens.

Say among the nations, "God reigns.

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar and all that fills it;

let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the Creator, for God is coming,

for God is coming to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with truth.

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, draw near to the One who made you, the One who is beyond borders, beyond control and coercion. Come, draw near to the One who judges the world with righteousness, inviting us to be a people of truth and equity, reflecting the diverse abundance of God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

God beyond borders, though we are made in your image, so often we have tried to create you in ours. We have adorned our country's flags with the image of the cross, desecrating that place where you conquered state power and sin once and for all with our own idolatrous nationalisms. We have confused our political preferences with your divine will. We have even dared to believe you love us best. What a mockery we make of your message of letting of letting the children of all nations come to you, Jesus. What harm we have caused upon bodies and faiths seen as less faithful, or less American, or less patriotic than our own. What violence we have worked in our collusion of state and religious power, the very same violence you subvert on the cross. Forgive our comfortable and profitable idolatries, and burst forth from all the boxes we have forced you into, bringing in your wake abundant life for all people, for all nations.

(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

Hear the good news, and let it dwell in your body: How things are, or how they have been, is not how they must always be. The God of all nations is at work still, growing flowers in the cracks between the walls we build.

All creation bears witness to a God beyond borders, a God on the move still working through ordinary people, like you and me, to claim and create abundant life for all people, for all nations, for all faiths. God is not held captive by our ideologies of idolatry; we need not be, either. We are a people made new! A forgiven people.

A diverse people of grace in many languages. Thanks be to God!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading	Micah 4:1-4 (pages 848-849, red Bible)	
Anthem	Lord of the Dance	Lloyd Larson
	(Duet: Sheryl Taylor and Brittney Axton)	
Gospel Reading	John 18:28-40 (page 987, red Bible)	
The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
Sermon Title	Christian Nationalism: Faith and Truth Amidst Politics	
	Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche	
*Hymn (GTG) No. 340	This Is My Song	FINLANDIA

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Confession of Belhar*

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
 This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
 We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
 the communion of saints called from the entire human family.
 We believe that this unity of Christ can be established only in freedom
 and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities,
 backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures,
 are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ,
 opportunities for mutual service and enrichment
 within the one visible people of God;
 Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice
 and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such
 an ideology in the name of the gospel.
 We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head,
 the church is called to confess and to do all these things,
 even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them
 and punishment and suffering be the consequence.
 Jesus is Lord.**

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

Agape

Jim Tidwell

*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

**With open hands, and open hearts, we offer these gifts, God of All People, for
the blessing of all your children. Create in us a generous spirit, meeting
difference with holy curiosity and abundance. Use all we offer this day to reach
across divides, to build a lasting peace, and to nourish life for all, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

*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 Martin Luther King, Jr. (Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech in Oslo, 10 December 1964; language modernized), Whitney Wilkinson Arreche and Jacob Bolton (prepared by GACEIR, the PCUSA General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations – resource here <https://pcusa.org/resource/confronting-white-christian-nationalism>).

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Duet: Sheryl Taylor and Brittney Axton



Assisting in Today's Service:
Tonia Thompson, Liturgist
Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

