



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 19, 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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

July 19, 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

Neither I nor the poets I love have found the keys to the kingdom of prayer and we cannot force God to stumble over where we sit. But I know that it's a good idea to sit anyway. So every morning, I kneel, waiting, making friends with the habit of listening, hoping that I'm being listened to. There, I greet God and my own disorder: I say hello to chaos, my unmade decisions, my desire and my trouble. I greet the day and I greet my beloved and bewildering Jesus. I recognize and greet my burdens. I greet my untold stories, my unfolding story, my own body. I greet my own small world, and I hope that I can meet the bigger world that day. I greet my story and hope that I can forget my story during the day, and greet some surprising stories. I greet God, and I greet the God who is more God than the God I greet.

Prelude

Glorify Thy Name

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship *adapted from Psalm 119*

Creator of the world, eternal God,
**We have come from many places
for a little while.**

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,
**We have come with all our differences,
seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, go-between God,
**We have come on journeys of our own,
to a place where journeys meet.**

So here, in this shelter house, let us take time together.
For when paths cross and pilgrims gather,
there is much to share and celebrate.

**In your name, Three-in-One God,
pattern of community, we worship.**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Confession is not a moment of guilt. Confession is a moment of shedding that which no longer serves us or this world. Confession is a reorienting of life to the rhythms of grace and not performance. Confession waters the soul with fresh hope.

Prayer of Confession

God of truth, how difficult it is for us to be truthful before you. We want to hide our anxieties and fears, our resentments and self-centeredness. Cut through our evasions by the truth of your word, and help us to be honest. God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sin we cannot see. God of love, accept us as we are but do not leave us here. Help us put behind us all that is unworthy in us that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy, following Jesus our Savior. *(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 this good news, and let it dwell in your body: God waters your life with baptismal grace, reminding you that your fundamental state is loved and claimed by the one who made you. **We will live as a people forgiven, ready to serve God and our neighbor with joy!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:12-25 (page 1030, red Bible)

Anthem

O Love

Elaine Hagenburg

(Duet: Sheryl Taylor & Brittney Axton)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28:10-19a (page 24, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

God's Ladder

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

We Experience God's Grace

**Affirmation of Faith Iona Community, Scotland*

**We believe in God whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives, whose love
was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all.
And whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and full of doubt, in God we trust.
And in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness,
and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful,
so to be the church, for the glory of God. 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**

**God of the highs and the lows of life, and all the messy in-betweens, use what
we offer this day in the service to all your children and this planet. Restore in
us the joy of giving, not as obligation or penance, but in abundant gratitude for
a grace we will never fully understand. We give in your name, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

***Hymn (GTG) No. 23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

PLEADING SAVIOR

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

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

***Postlude**

To God Be the Glory

Arr. Lloyd Larson

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

Liturgy by: Pádraig Ó Tuama, Iona Community Scotland, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Duet: Sheryl Taylor & Brittney Axton

Assisting in Today's Service:

Elaine Hsieh, Liturgist

Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering

