



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, August 16, 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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 16, 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

Creator God, you have composed the world of differing elements and celebrated its goodness. Open our hearts and minds to discover the vast diversity of your creation and to find our place of belonging. Open our eyes to see your divine image reflected in the faces around us. Open our spirits to honor and praise you, in Christ's name, amen.

Prelude

There's Wideness in God's Mercy

Richard Blake

*Call to Worship

God created each of us as unique individuals.

**We are different from each other in ways,
and this difference is a blessing.**

We are all important parts of the body of Christ.

God intentionally made us different and unique.

Today, we celebrate the diverse ways

God is reflected in each of us!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Draw near to the God who made you, the God who remakes you in grace, the God who sees in you blessed difference and holy possibility.

Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, you have woven blessed difference into all you have made: flowers of many colors, oceans of diverse interdependence, forests teeming with many forms of life. We humans have often failed to appreciate the beauty of holy difference. We fear those who do not look like us, or speak like us, or love like us, or believe like us, or move through the world like us. We make it our purpose to create uniformity and order, when you instead call us to create

belonging and holy curiosity. Forgive our fear of what we do not yet know. Set us free from the racism, bigotry, and indifference that fracture our relationship with you and with each other. Help us see you in all people, and in all people, see love. *(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

Whatever others may have named you, whatever painful words have landed in your body, this is the truth: you are seen by God, and loved by God, in all your beautiful complexity. **As a forgiven people, we will see each other, and we will love each other. We will not erase anyone from God's story of salvation.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Leah Wyckoff

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 133 (page 563, red Bible)

Anthem

Use Me, Lord

Don Besig

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15: 21-28 (page 893, red Bible)

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

Sermon

A Tale of Two Healings

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 27

Sacred the Body

TENDERNESS

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image,

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments.

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

**We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

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

Abide with Me

Abide with Me

*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 creation, we are your body, each of us a different part, functioning together as your presence in the world. Bless our gifts and our differences today. Help us to see how our differences are our gifts. And may our offerings serve to draw ever wider the circle of this community. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Be Thou Exalted

Chester Nordman

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

Liturgy by: United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Jude Langsdorf, Liturgist

Leah Wyckoff, Children's Gathering

