



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, August 9, 2026 - Intergenerational Service

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

Intergenerational Service

10:00am

August 9, 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

We are built on a foundation not our own. We were born because two other people created a combination of biological matter. We went to schools where dozens and dozens of people crafted ideas and activities to construct categories in our minds. We learned skills honed by generations of craftspeople. We pray and worship with spiritual ideas refined by centuries of tradition . . . Whether it is our parents, our teachers, mentors, friends, churches, or neighbors, people have been pouring into us. We are standing on a foundation. It should come as an incredible relief. Our only job is to build on what we've been given, and even then, even our gifts we can trace back to the creativity, generosity, and foresight of others.

Thank God we are a group project.

Prelude

Moment by Moment

Lani Smith

*Call to Worship

When we pass through the waters,

God is there with us.

When we suffer and feel hopeless,

God is there with us.

When we are joyful and celebratory,

God is there with us.

Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

God is there with us, always.

Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel,

God with us.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 475

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Sometimes, life can feel like a storm that won't let up, as we are hit by waves of loss, of fear, of guilt, and of regret. Jesus walks to us on those waters, inviting us to receive a calming grace once more.

Prayer of Confession *Caroline Renee Loy*

O Heavenly God, there is quiet in the eye of the hurricane. We confess that sometimes we are so swept away by the storms life brings us that we forget to uphold Your tranquility. We lose sight of the soothing, still lakes and the peaceful patter of light rain as we focus on trying to conquer the mighty seas. We confess that we have often erred in not honoring calm spaces for others. We are grateful to have You to show us ways to value a noise-free, calm scene of nature that, in turn, uplifts our neighbors longing for silence and stillness.

(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: God is with us in every stormy season of life. The waves may roll, the waters may crash around and within us, but we are held by God.

We are held by each other. **We are in each other's boats of faith, and we are never alone. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering *Blessing of the Backpacks* Whitney Wilkinson Arreche and Leah Wyckoff
Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:1-7 (page 658, red Bible)

Anthem I Have Felt the Hand of God Craig Courtney
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:22-33 (page 892, red Bible)

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

Sermon Who's in Your Boat? Caroline Renee Loy, John Field, Brittney Axton, Chris Cable

*Hymn Oceans (*see insert at back of bulletin; bolded parts sung by congregation*)

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Caroline Renee Loy*

Everyone: **Emmanuel Presbyterian Church places its faith in the hands, brains, and hearts of many. EPC spreads God's grace, mirrors Jesus's actions, and catalyzes acts of the Holy Spirit in our sanctuary and beyond.**

If you are a member of the choir or bells, please say with me: Our songs cascade like waterfalls, offering beauty and glory to Creation. Uplifting God in every hymn, we keep our boat afloat through the healing awe of music.

If you are in Book Mavens Book Club, please say with me: We study the vast oceans and precious life on land alike, celebrating new ideas as we fish for knowledge. Our Christlike devotion to learning allows meaningful collaboration on all seas.

If you are a part of Wednesday Work Crew, please say with me: We rebuild, repair, replenish, and renew our boat so that we may make more room for our growing family. We prevent God's people from drowning in disarray.

If you have attended Ruth Fellowship, Lois Circle, Men's Breakfast, or Men's Dinner, please say with me: We spend time in community groups, nourishing one another through conversation and food. Our fellowship provides unity and trust on every boat voyage of life.

If you are a volunteer in the nursery, please say with me: We care for the youngest passengers on God's boat, teaching them how to brave scary storms with the life-giving love of God's great waters.

If you ordained as a deacon or an elder, please say with me: We serve our people, guided by God and Jesus, to fill up empty cups and pray through hardships. We don't have all the answers, but we always provide our compassion for sailing through struggles.

Everyone: All of our voices are stronger together, so as one, we say this: We are a mighty boat of friends and family. God and Jesus are our steadfast guides. We navigate thunder and lightning with hard work and love. We are not afraid. 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

Spirit of Grace

Ben Logan

*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 all people, and all generations, widen our generosity to one another.
Show us paths of patience and openness when we face generational differences.
Show us wisdom and wonder at the gifts of people who are different from us.
Draw us into a boat big enough for all to find safety and shelter, and help us
travel the waves of life and faith together. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 623

I've Got Peace like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Let Your Light So Shine

Chester Norman

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

Liturgy by: Kate Bowler, Jessica Ritchie, Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Caroline Renee Loy.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Preachers: Caroline Renee Loy, John Field, Brittney Axton, Chris Cable

Assisting in Today's Service:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Whitney Wilkinson Arreche and Leah Wyckoff, Children's Gathering

