



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, August 17, 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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 17, 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

One day you finally knew what you had to do, and began, though the voices around you kept shouting their bad advice — though the whole house began to tremble and you felt the old tug at your ankles. "Mend my life!" each voice cried. But you didn't stop. You knew what you had to do, though the wind pried with its stiff fingers at the very foundations, though their melancholy was terrible. It was already late enough, and a wild night, and the road full of fallen branches and stones. But little by little, as you left their voices behind, the stars began to burn through the sheets of clouds, and there was a new voice which you slowly recognized as your own, that kept you company as you strode deeper and deeper into the world, determined to do the only thing you could do — determined to save the only life you could save.

Prelude

I Sing Praises

Terry Mac Almon

*Call to Worship

O God who gives birth
to all that we see, all that we know, all that we dream,
and all that is unseen, unknown and unimagined,
We celebrate your life that holds and nurtures the universe,
we celebrate your love that joins creation as one
and unites all things with you;
We give thanks for your life that is incarnated in Christ
revealed in every created being;
We savor your presence which is limitless and welcoming,
and your Spirit which fills every moment of time
and every fragment of matter.
We worship you!

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

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, reconnect with your Creator. Come, let go of the hurts and harms that do not serve you or this world. Come, release what is not yours to carry, trusting in

the grace of God woven through every atom of this universe, and every cell of our bodies. Come before that mystery of grace.

Prayer of Confession

Creator of all, we receive your vision of life, but we recognize that we have been kept from seeing its universal heartbeat. Even as we remember the connectedness of all things, we acknowledge that we have divided and separated ourselves, and forgotten our part in your creation. Even as we are energized by your breath within us, we confess our destructiveness, and repent of the harm we have done to ourselves and our world. For the sake of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation, our bright morning star, who, in death, disarmed all that is evil, and, in resurrection, stripped death of power, we ask you to recreate us, to reconnect us, and to restore to us the vision of your life in creation.

(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 this good news and let it dwell in your body: the One who created us out of pure love and joy recreates us each new day. **We are not held captive to the past, and we need not fear the future. We are, with all creation, held by God, and we hold each other. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! New life is always possible. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 12:1-3 (page 819, red Bible)

Anthem

Give Me A Servant's Heart

Lura Foster

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 1:10-21 (pages 1107-1108, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

Stars Forever Shining

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 23

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

PLEADING SAVIOR

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed *Confession of 1967*

We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind.

In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder,

the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.
We believe that God has created us for personal relationship
in which we may respond to the love of the Creator.
Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with
courage.

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

Moderato con moto

Franck

*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

**Abundant God, for whom scarcity has no place, free us from the need to set
limits upon your possibilities, or our own. Create in us a generous and curious
spirit, that we may never stop imagining and creating a world that is more just,
fairer, and kinder, on earth as it is in heaven, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*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 (excerpts)

Widor

*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 Mary Oliver, John Van De Laar, 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:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

