



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 23, 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

21th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 23, 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

God of Shiphrah and Puah, would you who called these fierce women by name help us to remember them well. Let the legacy of these women be known as a sacred resistance – that even in bondage, they refused to believe that they were any less worthy of life. Women of color who knew their dignity and the dignity of their people. Let us learn from their strategy and shrewdness, that we would have the courage that allows us to do what is just and right even in the face of intimidation. And would you mark us with the same wisdom that Shiphrah and Puah contained, that wisdom which reminds us we don't always owe our oppressors the truth. Let us know you as a God who cares more about freeing a people than you do about good behavior. Make us people of defiant dignity.

Prelude

Adoration

Florence Price

*Call to Worship

If God had not been with us,
when we felt attacks on every side,
when we felt swallowed whole,
and the world was an angry and scary place;
if God had not been with us,
when the waters would sweep us away,
we would have been lost, alone, and forgotten.
But we are not lost, alone, or forgotten.
God uses ordinary, holy humans like us to bring
escape, freedom, and salvation.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Confession is not a moment for guilt. Confession is a set-apart time to unburden ourselves, and one another. To let go of what we have been carrying too long, and find freedom in God.

Prayer of Confession

God who rescues, forgive us for the times we have chosen our own comfort and rule-abiding ways over preserving the safety of another. Give us the courage of those who stand up to abuses of power, and who proclaim there is a better world coming. Forgive us when we go along to get along, rather than saying no to what harms our neighbor and this planet. Raise up within us a spirit of boldness, of truth-telling, and of birthing a world that is kinder, more just, and more like your vision for us all. (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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

We are seen by God, known by God, and loved by God.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:1-8 (pages 1033-1034, red Bible)

Anthem

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 1:8-21 (page 48, red Bible)

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

Sermon Shiprah and Puah: Birthing a Better World Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 850

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith Iona Community, Scotland

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.
We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life
and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.
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

Moderato con moto

César 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

God of abundant care, open within us a depth of care for those on the edge of life: for the stranger seeking a home, for the student seeking safety, for the older adult seeking companionship. Make us a shelter for all your people, using these gifts and our lives to build a kinder, more just world, in your name, amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Prelude in G minor

J. S. Bach

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

Liturgy by: Cole Arthur Riley, 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:

John Field, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

