



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, August 24, 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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 24, 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

At the start of this day, may all that is strained in us come to ease. We pray for all who suffer violence today, may an unexpected serenity surprise them. For those who risk their lives each day for peace, may their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history. That those who make riches from violence and war, might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost. That we might see through our fear of each other a new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression. That those who enjoy the privilege of peace might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters. That the wolf might lie down with the lamb, that our swords be beaten into ploughshares, and no hurt or harm be done anywhere along the holy mountain.

Prelude

Think About His Love

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

The One who commands the clouds
calls us to be poured out for others.

**We can, by faith, be the waters of peace
that quench the fires of hatred.**

The One who creates mercy and hope,
longs for a world of fair play and grace.

**We can, by faith, let righteousness and
justice be our constant companions.**

The One who is with us in every moment
composes a love-song for our hearts.

**We can, by faith, teach this song
to everyone we meet.**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life.

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, we confess that we do not always greet one another with a generous spirit. Just as in the early days of your church, our world is filled with rivalries, criticisms, and unkind competition. We pass judgment, and create hierarchies of power when, with you, there are none. We build ourselves up by tearing others down, when you instead call us to build together by your Spirit. Forgive us. Set us free from our need for validation, and help us see those who have been working on the sidelines all along for your good in this world.

(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 the good news, and let it dwell in your body: God's anger is not forever.
God's mercy is eternal. **We are a people set free from harmful patterns, and given new life in Jesus Christ. Thanks be God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading Galatians 2:11-19 (page 1060, red Bible)

Anthem Peals of Praise Karen L. Buckwalter
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

New Testament Reading Philemon 1:1-9a (page 1088, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title Hotheads and Shepherds in the Early Church

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 324 For All the Faithful Women NYLAND

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed, page 35*

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

Trio

Rheinberger

*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, the rain of your blessing showers this dry and weary earth
with hope. We offer these gifts of the overflow, that you might water our
community and lives with refreshing grace, springing up new life. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*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. Ethel Tench Rogers

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 John O Donohue, Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist



Assisting in Today's Service:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

