



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 30, 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 30, 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

Of all powers, love is the most powerful and the most powerless. It is the most powerful because it alone can conquer that final and most impregnable stronghold that is the human heart. It is the most powerless because it can do nothing except by consent. To say that love is God is romantic idealism. To say that God is love is either the last straw or the ultimate truth. In the Christian sense, love is not primarily an emotion, but an act of the will. When Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, he is not telling us to love them in the sense of responding to them with a cozy emotional feeling. You can as easily produce a cozy emotional feeling on demand as you can a yawn or a sneeze. On the contrary, he is telling us to love our neighbors in the sense of being willing to work for their well-being even if it means sacrificing our own well-being to that end, even if it means sometimes just leaving them alone. Sometimes liking people follows on the heels of loving them. It is hard to work for people's well-being very long without coming in the end to rather like them too.

Prelude

Oh, How He Loves You And Me

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

God's love is poured in us from our birth.

We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, draw near to the God who made you, the God who plants love in you, and the God who would grow peace in you.

Prayer of Confession

Caring God, we confess that we have not loved this world well. We have not loved ourselves. We have dismissed concepts of love as frivolous and naïve, failing to recognize the wisdom in choosing attachment in a society that trains us to exploit one another. We confess we are afraid, lacking the courage to risk ourselves on love for fear of losing it. We offer hatred to the world more than love. Forgive us. And have mercy on all our charades of heartlessness, that we would claim a life of more than mere survival. That we could love and be loved in return, all our days, in love's many forms.

(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

Let your soul receive this rest: forgive yourself, choosing self-compassion over unlove. Be assured by the divine that, despite your deepest doubts, you are loveable. **We are adored by God, as they look upon our faces and swell with delight. We are healed by both love received and given.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 3:1-15 (page 49, red Bible)

Anthem

Canticle of Love

Joseph M. Martin

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:9-21 (page 1034, red Bible)

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

Sermon

Loving from Our Center

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *adapted from The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery

beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives

of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals God's love in Jesus Christ by showing

power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.
The new life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know that God loves and accepts them.
They therefore accept themselves and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,
except God's grace.
As we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ,
we live in freedom and good cheer,
bearing witness on good days and evil days,
confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

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

Interlude

Mark Hayes

*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, you are the source of all our love and all our generosity. You are the center
of our lives and the heart of all we do. May we love others well, and ourselves
too, from this center of acceptance and joy. May we give generously of our
resources, our time, and most especially, our love. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 300

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Fantasy in A minor

Edward Broughton

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

Liturgy by: Frederick Buechner, Ministry Matters, 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:

Leah Wyckoff, Liturgist
Kate Phillips, Children's Gathering

