



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, August 31, 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

August 31, 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

People think liberation is a future unfolding before us. But the path to freedom stretches out in both directions. It is what you've inherited, your first and last breath. Walk backward and graze your grandma's face. Go ahead and cry, flip the table, and then repair it in time for the feast. If it's freedom you're after, go marvel at the sky, then look down at your own marvelous hands. Rest your souled body with another sacred body and tell each other the truth: your dignity cannot be chained.

Prelude

Glorify Thy Name

arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

The stars light the sky. They show us the way.

Together, with the ancestors, we are here.

The trees surround us. Our space is protected.

The ground is consecrated. A place is prepared.

The lamp is lit. The Holy Text is speaking.

Truth-shouts shatter all lies. Our eyes are opened.

Justice takes shape. Joy stamps out fear. We are free.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 52

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

GO DOWN MOSES

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, draw near to the God who hears the cries of all who suffer. Come, draw near to the God who answers those cries with mighty acts of justice. Come, draw near to your truest self, and your most loving community. Return.

Prayer of Confession

Powerful God, we confess that we have wielded power against one another, as opposed to using our power in protection of others. In a world of so much chaos and unpredictability, we have become feverish for any semblance of control, even if that control is used to neglect, exclude, and oppress others. Our own daily power we have used to maintain the status quo. We have stolen the bodily

agency of others. We have dismissed the voices of our children and the elderly. For all that we've done or witnessed being done, we are truly sorry. Forgive us and have mercy on us that we might know an empowered life, grounded in our own voices without suffocating those of others.

(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

Let your soul receive this rest: the God who wove order and direction into the very earth around us so too reveals all that they have relinquished control over.
We will allow the divine to restore our humanity to us, that we would turn from evil deeds and give that power to those who can be trusted to wield it well. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Kristin Hartwell
Prayer for Illumination
Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12 (page 880, red Bible)
Anthem Here I Am Lord Mary McDonald
(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)
Old Testament Reading Exodus 5:1-9, 6:1-8 (pages 51, 52 red Bible)
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon Title Decolonizing Christianity and Camp Songs Theology
Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche
*Hymn (GTG) No. 74 When God Restored Our Common Life RESIGNATION

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith

We remember the wisdom of Sojourner Truth.
"Truth is powerful, and it prevails."
May integrity be the ground we stand on.
We remember the poetry of Art Blakely.
"Wherever truth drops on it eventually grinds to a powder."
May truth rise and fall, particles of wind and breath.
We remember the fierceness of Nina Simone.
"I have spent many years pursuing excellence...now it was dedicated to freedom, and that was far more important."
May fierceness fuel our flame.

We remember the perseverance of Marsha P. Johnson.

"How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?"

May the human struggle be heard in the rustling of the tree limbs, never deaf in our ears.

We remember the accuracy of Ella Baker.

"In order for the poor and oppressed people to become part of a society that is meaningful, the system under which we now exist has to be radically changed."

May justice drive out all harms.

We remember the depth of the great Mahalia Jackson.

"How can you sing of amazing grace and all God's wonders without using your hands?"

May the joy of God take shape in our body, our actions. 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

I Come to Thee

Franklin Ritter

*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

We offer our time, our talent, our energy, our hopes, in your name, God. Yours is the name of justice, and freedom, and life without fear or hunger. Kindle within us a fire for the justice you have woven into this world, and into our holy text. Set us aflame with the joy of belonging to you, and one another, that no one be forgotten or silenced. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn Pharoah, Pharoah

*Chorus: Pharaoh, Pharaoh,
whoa whoa Let my people go! HUH!
Yeah yeah yeah yeah
Pharaoh, Pharaoh, whoa baby,
Let my people go!*

*Well the burning bush told me come on down
Take off your shoes you're on holy ground
Got to get my people out of Pharaoh's hand
And lead them to the promised land.*

Chorus

*Well me and my people go into the Red Sea
Pharaoh's army coming after me
I raised my rod and stuck it in the sand
And all of God's people walked across on dry land.*

Chorus

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Trumpet Tune

George Blake

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 Liberating Church: A 21st Century Hush Harbor Manifesto, Cole Arthur Riley, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emanuel Chancel Choir



Assisting in Today's Service:

Tonia Thompson, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

