



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 27, 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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 27, 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

For everything that emerges from the earth, thanks be to you, O God. Holy root of being, sacred sap that rises, fragrant earth. May we know that we are of You, may we know that we are in You, may we know that we are one with You, together one. Guide us as nations to what is deepest. Open us as peoples to what is most important. Lead us as a world to what is dearest – that we may know the holiness of wholeness, that we may learn the strength of humility, that together we may live close to the earth, and grow in grounded glory.

Prelude

Contemplation

Stainer-Peery

*Call to Worship

There is a place where we do not have to
hide any parts of who we are
from God each other, or ourselves.

This is that place.

There is a place where we cast down
the idols we have made,
and recenter ourselves
in God's trustworthy presence.

This is that place.

There is a place where we dare to name
not just who we are,
but who we might yet become.

This is that place.

And all are welcome here.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 265 (*verses 1-4*)

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come and find your truest self. Come and be unburdened. Come and meet the gracious goodness of God.

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we have placed authority in all the wrong places, and in all the wrong people. We have confused power for authority. We have mistaken charisma and a cult of personality for your wisdom. We have taken the comfortable paths of aligning ourselves with that power to avoid being seen as different ourselves. But you, God who empties yourself, call us to see power in the emptying of self for others. You call us to recognize authority in compassion not coercion. Forgive us for placing trust in the wrong people and systems, and restore our trust in you and in each other. *(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

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone in Christ is a new creation: the past is gone; the new has come.

We believe and live the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:1-13 (page 1069, red Bible)

Anthem

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Allen Pote

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32 (page 899, red Bible)

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

Sermon

On Good Authority

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 172

Blest Are They

BLEST ARE THEY

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Nicene Creed hymnal page 34*

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

Jesus, you have shown us what faithfulness looks like. You have shown us what care for those on the edge of life looks like. You have shown us what radical acceptance and self-emptying look like. Use these gifts, use our lives, for the setting right of a world gone mad with power. Restore in us your vision. Renew in us your courage. And reignite in us our common calling to serve and love, in your name, amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Church Bells

Rosemary Hadler

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

Liturgy by: John Philip Newell, 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:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

