



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 7, 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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 7, 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

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers flow in the right direction, will the earth turn as it was taught, and if not how shall I correct it? Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better? Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless. Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it, am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia? Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing. And I gave it up. And took my old body and went out into the morning, and sang.

Prelude

I Exalt Thee

arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

We come to the One
who knows all the facts about our lives;

**we are open books to God,
who writes on every page.**

We approach the One
who knows what we are thinking;

**our thoughts, our fears,
our hopes are all known by God.**

We worship the One who is always with us,
in front of us, behind us, around us;

what a wonderful God!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 664

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Trusting in God's mercy, we ask forgiveness for our sins.

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, Lord, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls. But we do not want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in Your guiding power. Raise us up from the heavy weight of guilt, and lead us to the freedom and energy of people whose faults are forgiven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession) Amen.

Sung Response (GTG) No. 851 Come, Bring Your Burdens to God *(sung twice)*

WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO

Come, bring your burdens to God.

Come, bring your burdens to God.

Come, bring your burdens to God,

for Jesus will never say no.

Assurance of Pardon *adapted from Hosea 14:4*

The Lord says: "I will bring my people back to me; I will love them with all my heart. No longer am I angry with them. I will be to them like rain in a dry land.

This is the promise of God.

Thanks be to God.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-33 (page 952, red Bible)

Anthem

God of Great and God of Small

Natalie Sleeth

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 139:1-18 (page 566 red Bible)

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

Sermon Title This Fearful and Wonderful Life Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 29

O God, You Search Me

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Iona Community, Scotland*

With the whole church, we affirm

that we are made in God's image,

befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

**With people everywhere, we affirm
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.
With all creation, we celebrate
the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God,
forever at work in ourselves and this world.**

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 who writes our stories, you know what is needed for each chapter, each
page. We loosen our control of our resources, knowing that you will provide
what we need. We free ourselves from the tyranny of more, and release to you
all things, to do your good in this world, bringing your kingdom of hope in
material, real ways, even through us. Amen.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Minister continues praying)

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

*Communion of the People

*(Please come forward using the center aisle and return to your seats using the side aisle. If you are not able to
come forward, remain in your seat and you will be served. Gluten free bread and cup are available on the small
table in the center aisle.)*

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Marcello

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 Mary Oliver, Thom Shuman, Book of Common Worship, 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:

Mary Jane Horr, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

