



# 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, September 13, 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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 13, 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

*It is a strange thing to be so bound and so released, all in the same moment. To feel the heart open wide and wider still, even as it turns to take its leave. On this day, let us say this is simply the way love moves in its ceaseless spiraling; turning us toward one another, then sending us into what waits for us, with arms open wide to us in welcome and in hope. On this day, in this place, may you be aware more than ever of what your heart is opened to here, what has been tended and welcomed here, what has been remade here.*

Prelude

Praise the Lord

Arr. Bill Wolaver

### \*Call to Worship

To see the life that teems around us,  
**To give thanks for the gift of life we have received;**  
To notice the beauty and promise of each season,  
**To breathe deeply of this day;**  
To accept the gift of love, and to love in return:  
**This is to worship God.**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC KEE

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Come before the God who made you, the God who calls you beloved. Come, let go of your regrets as we are made new in grace.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of shalom, we have lost sight of our own faces, risking our humanity in favor of supremacy. Guide us away from the edge of our undoing. Show us what it means to be a people of deep and abiding reverence for the beauty and connectedness of everything everywhere. Train us out of habits of degradation**

and artifice, of competing to be worth more. Remind us that we don't need to exalt humanity over any other piece of creation to be worth something. May any honor we have withheld from one another be doubled in the presence of reparation and forgiveness. *(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

The God who made all things and holds together all things reminds us of our making. We know our worth, and have nothing to prove and everything to love. **We remember that the same dignity that holds us, holds every person and part of the cosmos. We extend the welcome and worth of God to all people.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 19:1-16 (pages 105-106, red Bible)

Anthem

Soliloquy

Judy Phillips

*(Emmanuel Bell Choir)*

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:1-12 (pages 1034-1035, red Bible)

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

Sermon

Blessed By Difference

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith *Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order W-5.01, W-5.010354*

**We respond to God's grace both in public worship and service and in personal acts of devotion and discipleship . . . In personal life we seek to live out our faith through daily disciplines of prayer, other practices of discipleship, household worship, and Christian vocation and service. Our lives as Christians are shaped by the Word and empowered by the Spirit as we grow more and more each day into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. We respond to God's grace through other practices of discipleship: keeping sabbath, studying Scripture, contemplation and action, fasting and feasting, stewardship and self-offering. All of these practices are meant to help us attend to the presence and action of God in our lives.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer  
Prayer for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 by Caroline Renee Loy  
Offering our Gifts to God

[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so  
at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code here.]



Offertory

Spirit Song

Arr. Bill Wolaver

\*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 of abundance, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for  
all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of  
peace and hope, we offer our time, talent, and treasure this day. We pray that  
you will use all that is offered here to create a world of welcome, justice, and  
peace. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

\*Postlude

Grand Chorus

Chester Nordman

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

*Liturgy by: Jan Richardson, Darren Philip, Church of Scotland, 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 Bell Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

John Stocking, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering

