



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 14, 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 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.

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 14, 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

Lead us, Creation's Architect, into all those places where we will discover your hope waiting to nourish and restore our famished souls. Lead us, Shepherd of little children, into all those places where we may have the joy of filling the emptiness of others with your goodness. Lead us, Spirit of Goodness, into all those places where deeds of kindness and hands overflowing with mercy speak louder than platitudes.

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Robert Lau

*Call to Worship

The peace of morning's stillness, the peace of new beginnings

The peace of heaven's kiss, to welcome us to this day

to root us in this day, to free us for this day,

That we may grow with the greening earth,

that we may grow from the ground of glory

That we may grow in grateful wonder of You,

Gracious Giver of this day, Great Giver of this new day.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our honesty?

Prayer of Confession

Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls that sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fills us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us. Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from

our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands; we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(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

This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment,
God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.
Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 23 (page 491, red Bible)

Anthem

The Lost Sheep

John Horman

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-7 (pages 952-953 red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

A Scandalous Shepherd

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 801

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

CRIMOND

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *The Confession of 1967*

**God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery
which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,

a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest;

again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt,

vicarious satisfaction of a legal

penalty, and victory over the powers of evil.

These are expressions of a truth which remains

beyond the reach of all theory

in the depths of God's love for humanity.

**They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement
of God's reconciling work. 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

Seek Ye First

Arr. Mark Zeeman

*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

**As we offer our gifts to you, Gentle Shepherd, may we lay down our prejudices
towards others, so they might find a welcome in our hearts; may we set aside
our fears of the future, so you might lead us into your future, may we become
the goodness and mercy for which others have been looking all their lives. This
we pray in Jesus' name, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 772

Live into Hope

TRURO

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Lift Up Your Songs of Praise

Saint-Saëns/Landon

*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 Iona Community Scotland, Thom Shuman, 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:

Jude Langsdorf, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering