



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 20, 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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 20, 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

The final secret, I think, is this: that the words "You shall love the Lord your God" become in the end less a command than a promise. And the promise is that, yes, on the weary feet of faith and the fragile wings of hope, we will come to love God at last, as from the first God has loved us—loved us even in the wilderness, especially in the wilderness, because God has been in the wilderness with us. God has been in the wilderness for us. God has been acquainted with our grief. And, loving God, we will come at last to love each other too. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love God.

Prelude

Morning Song

Robert W. Thygerson

*Call to Worship

We come to this holy place with our hopes

and we come with our hungers.

We hunger for God to speak to us.

We hunger for forgiveness and a breaking of harmful habits.

We hunger for acceptance and to be truly known.

We hunger for joy and a heart that is light.

We hunger to make a difference in this world.

God meets us here.

God meets our hungers here.

And all are fed.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

We come to unburden ourselves before the God who sees us with the eyes of love.

We are not afraid of honesty. We believe grace can change us all for the better.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Maker of all, have mercy on us. Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor, have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, Breath of life, have mercy on us. Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

(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

Hear this good news, and let it dwell in your body: God is the one who forgives us. God is the one who feeds us. God is the one who calls us to nourish this world with grace. **We are a forgiven people, set free to forgive others and ourselves. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16 (page 897, red Bible)

Anthem

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless

Everett Titcomb

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2-15 (page 62, red Bible)

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

Sermon

When the Manna Comes

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *The Belhar Confession*

We believe:

**that God has been revealed as the one who wishes to
bring about justice and true peace among people;**

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,

is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged,

that God calls the church to follow in this;

for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit
the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
that God wishes to teach the church to do
what is good and to seek the right;
that the church must therefore stand by people
in any form of suffering and need.

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

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Larry Shackley

*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

With God, there is plenty. With God, there is abundant life for all. We will not hoard these resources, Generous God. We will use them for the good of our neighbors. We will use them to serve our community and this world. We will use them to feed people with hope, acceptance, and food, in your name, amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 770

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

WELCOME TABLE

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Recessional

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, 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:

Joyce Morris, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering