



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 21, 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. 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 21, 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

God our maker, we honor the sacred multitude that resides in you. May the guardian in you protect us. May the child in you delight in us. May the friend in you challenge us. May your ashes resurrect us. May your sky shelter us. May the mystery of you liberate us. Provide abundance and healing in all forms to those who need it today, and deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us. For you have made us – glory – and we are still being made. Amen.

Prelude

Come and Sing Praises

Arr. Bill Wolaver

*Call to Worship

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest –

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house.

You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Draw close, in all honesty and truth, for with God, there is compassion. Draw close, in all realness, for with God, there is grace. Draw close, in all need and ache, for with God, there is abundance, for all.

Prayer of Confession

Teach us the courage, O God, to turn from what seems so natural, so safe: the way of grasping power, and befriending the powerful, in the hope of protection and security. Teach us the humility, O God, to turn from what is so enticing, so persuasive: the way of accumulating things, and trusting in wealth, in the hope of comfort and life. Lead us, O God, in another way, the way of true security, true wealth, the way of Christ, the servant, the way of weakness and simplicity. Lead us, O God, in another way, the way of caring for the neglected, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, protecting the threatened, and challenging the powerful, the foolish way of the Gospel, that brings salvation to all.

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

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

Come, bring your burdens to God.

WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO

Come, bring your burdens to God.

*Come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.*

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news, and let it dwell in your body:

How the world is, is not how it has to be.

God interrupts our patterns of harm and hoarding with this truth:

We do not buy our forgiveness. We do not sell grace.

We rest in the abundance of God's love for each of us;

for all of us. Thanks be to God!

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 22:1-16 (page 592, red Bible)

Anthem

Just Pass It On

Don Besig

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13 (pages 953-954 red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

True Wealth

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

We Experience God's Grace

**Affirmation of Faith Belhar Confession*

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe 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.

We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

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

Contemplation

Rob Roy Perry

**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, you have given us absolutely everything we have. You gave us sunsets and speckled eggs, tiny newborn hands and silver moons, so that we could know what beauty looks like. You gave us major keys and harmonies, forgiveness and poetry, so that we could know what love sounds like. You gave us hands to build, fire to warm, water to clean and food to fill, so that we could know what peace feels like. And you gave us hearts to give, minds to hope, hands to serve and mouths to pray, so that we know what your Kingdom loves like. So today we pray that you might be able to use these humble gifts to bring your kingdom here, so that more may know what beauty looks like, what love sounds like and what peace feels like, saying all the while, "thank you, thank you, thank you." For you have given us everything we have. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Alla Maestoso

Chester Norman

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 Cole Arthur Riley, Sarah Are Speed, John Van De Laar, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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:

John Stocking, Liturgist

Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering

