



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, September 29, 2024

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am

September 29, 2024

## 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

*If God exists he isn't just churches and mathematics. He's the forest, He's the desert. He's the ice caps, that are dying. He's the ghetto and the Museum of Fine Arts. He's every one of us, potentially. The leaf of grass, the genius, the politician, the poet. And if this is true, isn't it something very important? Yes, it could be that I am a tiny piece of God, and each of you too, or at least of his intention and his hope. Which is a delight beyond measure. I don't know how you get to suspect such an idea. I only know that the river kept singing. It wasn't a persuasion, it was all the river's own constant joy which was better by far than a lecture, which was comfortable, exciting, unforgettable. Of course for each of us, there is the daily life. Let us live it, gesture by gesture. We do not live in a simple world. I pray for the desperate earth. I pray for the desperate world. I do the little each person can do, it isn't much. . . And still, pressed deep into my mind, the river keeps coming, touching me, passing by on its long journey, its pale, infallible voice singing.*

Prelude

We Worship And Adore You

Arr. Mark Hayes

\*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 124:8)

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**In speaking, in silence,  
in movement, in stillness,  
God is with us.**

God alone saves us.

God alone helps us.

God alone sets us on the path of peace.

**Let us worship our Helper!**

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 23

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

PLEADING SAVIOR

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

We long to gloss over the messy parts of our stories: the deceit, the anger and the heavy grudges. But nothing is hidden from God. We come before God and one another with complete honesty, naming our sins that we might reclaim our name as God's beloved children.

## Prayer of Confession

**God, do you go silent when we perpetuate cycles of retaliation and violence? Does your silence mock our own silence in the face of unchecked weaponization and loss of life? Forgive us for our failure to speak out and speak up for the victims of violence in our midst and around the world. Open our ears and hearts to hold space for your voice to return to us: the voice of a better way of healing and hope for all people. Show us this faithful path and give us the courage to walk in it, even if for the very first time. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.**

*(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)*

Sung Response (GTG) No. 551

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **We are a people set free from the harmful patterns of the past for a future God builds in our midst even now. We are whole people who are called to make this world whole, with God's help.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Molly Bolles

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

James 5:13-20 (page 1103, red Bible)

Anthem

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Gordon Young

*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*

Old Testament Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 (pages 441, 443, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

The Book without God

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 *Barmen Declaration*

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to God's Creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification or sanctification through him.**

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](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

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

**Accept all that is offered in this place this day, O God. Accept our material commitments to build a more peaceable family on this earth and in our own communities. Accept our personal commitments to become a people who break cycles of hatred and retaliation, in both large-scale and everyday ways. Use these gifts, and use us messy people, for the rebuilding of a world of hope and healing in your name, Amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

\*Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Arr. Ethel Tench Rogers

*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, 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:

Jude Langsdorf, Liturgist

Molly Bolles, Children's Gathering

