EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, October 25, 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- **E**mpowering **P**eople in **C**hrist
-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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am October 25, 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

Less policing each other. More shared dreams. Less doom-scrolling. More treating neighbors like family. Less getting caught up in what we can't do. More inviting people over for soup, even when our apartment is messy. Fewer refrains of resignation. More knowing the names of the birds who lived in the neighborhood. Creative Caregiver—when systems of harm pull us into despair and isolation, meet us with your Connecting Love in the day to day. That we may be bread and life for one another. That we may unfurl the ordinary, wonderful Kin-dom of God.

Prelude The Lone Wild Bird arr. Paul A. McKlveen

*Call to Worship

Who are you?
I am a child of God.
Who are we?
We are the children of God, the imperfectly holy family of faith.
What does it mean to be children of God?
We belong to God who loves us and calls us by name.
In life and in death we belong to God.
In this chosen family, we belong to each other.
Come! Let us worship God!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 14 For the Beauty of the Earth DIX

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, shed the heavy things that were never yours to carry. Come, as together we seek the grace that makes for dreaming.

Prayer of Confession

God of the night, we confess that we have chosen exhaustion over dreaming. We have been tricked and indoctrinated into systems of dehumanization. These systems make the most vulnerable work far more than their bodies ever should. We have set up an economy that demands we sacrifice ourselves at the altars of productivity and utility, that says we won't survive without overwork. We have traded our own peace, our communion with our own interior landscapes, for the frenzied noise of an exhausted world. Forgive us. And have mercy on our weary souls, that we would locate the holy quiet, the divine lullaby that whispers within each of us. That we would dare to dream.

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

Sung Response (GTG) No. 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, *verse 4* SPIRIT

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.
You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.
Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news and let it dwell in your body: God is not finished with you. God is not finished with us. A new thing is coming, and we can begin to glimpse it. **Dreams will guide the way. We will find courage for the journey, and provision for the road, together. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering *Celebrating our Nursery Volunteers*

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Ruth 1:1-18 (page 238, red Bible)

Anthem Joy and Elation Cynthia Dobrinski
(*Emmanuel Bell Choir*)

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25 (page 877, red Bible)

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

Sermon *Emmanuel Dreams: Dreams of Chosen Family* Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 108 (*verses 1-3*) Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

We believe in the God of grace.
We follow the Teacher of Love.
We live by the Spirit of mercy.
We trust God's healing of the world.
When people spread fear and division,
when evil, injustice and oppression thrive,
no political revolution, program or platform will save us,
but only a people transformed by grace and light,
and a bold and sustained outbreak of gentleness.
We will stand up to cynicism, hate and indifference,
and blanket this world with compassion, calm and mercy.
We will proclaim the truth against all resistance.
We will meet fear and hate with healing.
We will obstruct the progress of injustice
with our prayers, our words and our bodies.
We will infest the world with grace and love.
We pray for open hearts and a spirit of deep listening.
We pray for courage to enter the wounds of the world;
for a spirit of peace to face violence with nonviolence;
for patience to answer shadows with light.
We pray for humility to offer ourselves as the first to be changed.
We pray for one another, for we are one Body.
We devote ourselves to sacrifice and discipline.
Giving thanks for the great Spirit of grace
already breathing in us, already rising and dreaming in us.
In hope and love, as the gentle people of God, we go forth.

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 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

God of all goodness, you have given us everything we have—our time, our talents, and our material resources. We offer these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. Please take these tithes and offerings and use them to feed the hungry, comfort the brokenhearted, and bring your peace and justice to our local community and the wider world. Multiply these humble gifts so they do more than we can ask or imagine. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 302 When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace O WALY WALY

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude Go Now and Serve the Lord Douglas E. Wagner

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

Liturgy by: *enfleshed, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Steve Garnaas-Holmes.*

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:
Dina Ferreira, Liturgist