EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 1, 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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am November 1, 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 Lord God said: I myself will dream a dream within you. Good dreaming comes from me, you know. My dreams seem impossible, not too practical nor for the cautious person; a little risky sometimes, a trifle brash perhaps. Some of my friends prefer to rest more comfortably in sounder sleep with visionless eyes. But from those who share my dreams I ask a little patience, a little humor, some small courage, and a listening heart – I will do the rest. Then they will risk and wonder at their daring; run, and marvel at their speed; build, and stand in awe at the beauty of their building. It is my dream you dream, my house you build, my caring you witness; my love you share. And this is the heart of the matter.

Prelude How Can I Keep From Singing? Lani Smith

*Call to Worship

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams,
we gather today to remember that you have created us all
in your image and in your likeness.
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
We remember how you spoke into the chaos and created beauty.
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
We remember the ways you have delivered your people
through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time,
right up until this present moment.
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
God you have been our guiding light for all generations,
leading toward a beloved community
where all are equally seen and radically loved.
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
We gather today remembering your presence among us,
and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 612 We Praise You, O God KREMSER

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 Leah Wyckoff

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Psalm 19 (pages 488-489, red Bible)

Anthem Ancient Words arr. Craig Courtney
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

Gospel Reading Matthew 27:11-24 (page 907, red Bible)

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

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

*Hymn (GTG) No. 537 (*verses 1-4*) When at This Table FEASTDAY

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.

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. 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.

Communion Liturgy

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Minister continues praying)

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

***Communion of the People**

(Please come forward using the center aisle and return to your seats using the side aisle. If you are not able to come forward, remain in your seat and you will be served. Gluten free bread and cup are available on the small table in the center aisle.)

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky HERE I AM

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude Fanfare Triumphant Craig A. Penfield

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

Liturgy by: *Charles Peguy, 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 Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:
James Taylor, Liturgist
Leah Wyckoff, Children's Gathering