EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 8, 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

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

10:00am November 8, 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

God, we pray for a spirit of inclusion in our hearts and communities. Help us to welcome and value everyone. May we actively seek to include those who are often overlooked or marginalized. Let our actions reflect your love and acceptance. Thank you for the diversity that enriches our lives. Help us to embrace it and to foster a culture of inclusion and belonging. Guide us to listen to and learn from the experiences of others, broadening our perspectives and deepening our empathy. May we be advocates for inclusion in all areas of life, from our workplaces to our communities to our places of worship. We pray for those who feel excluded or isolated. Provide them with a sense of belonging and help us to be part of the solution. Thank you for the beauty of inclusion. Help us to live out this value in all that we do, creating a world where everyone is welcomed and valued.

Prelude Give Thanks Henry Smith/Arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

With Joseph of Hebron, we interpret God's promises of provision.
We dream dreams of plenty.
With Solomon, we pray for wisdom.
We dream dreams of doing what is right and seeking the good.
With Joseph of Nazareth, we bravely choose each other as family.
We dream dreams of belonging.
With Claudia Procula, wife of Pilate, we heed dreams of warning.
We dream dreams of righteousness and peace.
With Peter and Cornelius, we welcome all people.
We dream dreams of being blessed by difference,
and ever widening our church family.
Thanks be to the God who dreams *with* us, and *in* us!

*Hymn (GTG) No. 316 Where Charity and Love Prevail TWENTY-FOURTH

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 Katie Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading Acts 10:1-16 (pages 1001-1002, red Bible)

Anthem Dream a Dream Henry Hinnant
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

Gospel Reading Acts 10:17-35 (page 1002, red Bible)

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

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

*Hymn (GTG) No. 712 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

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 Abide with Me Arr. Timothy Matthews

During the Offertory, you are invited to bring your pledges for 2027 and place them in the basket on the communion table, or put them in the offering plate. You may also place a shared dream for Emmanuel on the display at the front of the sanctuary. Thank you for your generous and loving support of God's work in our church!

*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 *Thomas Merton*

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in you is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by his life and death for us. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 317 In Christ There Is No East or West MC KEE

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude To God Be the Glory Arr. Lloyd Larson

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

Liturgy by: *Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Cole Arthur Riley, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Thomas Merton.*

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
Katie Phillips, Children's Gathering