



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 16, 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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Stewardship Dedication Sunday

10:00am

November 16, 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

Creating God: you grasp chaos and shake it into new heavens brimming with light, new earth teeming with life. You delight in your children so much that before we finish our sentences, you have heard our hearts; before we whisper our dreams, you fill our needs. Word of God, you shape our lips and loosen our tongues that we might witness to your kingdom where enemies take naps together; where lions and lambs find their rest. Spirit of Wisdom: open us, that we might trust without fear; fill us, that we might discern our call to faithfulness; teach us, that we would make known our thanks to the farthest reaches of the universe.

Prelude

Water Music
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

arr. Tammy Waldrop

*Call to Worship *(adapted from Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7)*

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people:

Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply –

Pray for your communities

Keep God in the center of all that is.

We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

For something happens here

that reminds us that we can live as God desires.

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

and we can trust the promise.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

There is no virtue in staying the same, traveling the same well-worn paths of guilt and harm. We find our wholeness in being willing to change, and opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit changing us in grace.

Prayer of Confession

God, we carry around this incompleteness, this drive for fulfillment that always seems just around the corner. If only we could get it together and find our true calling, our real passion, or the right plan. God, help us, guide us. What are we missing? Blessed are we who strive earnestly to change ourselves and the world around us, but feel the drag and pull of what won't budge, the weight of all our limited and frail humanity. We carry it with us. Blessed are we, who hunger to be fully known, and fully loved, in all our humanity. And that is a God-sized project. Show us your grace and mercy. May we be changed.

(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 the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. **Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. We are forgiven, and changed for the better. Amen.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Barbara Edwards

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27 (pages 1132, 1133, red Bible)

Anthem

The Light of the Lord

arr. Jude Langsdorf

(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25 (page 682, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

The Scariest Six-Letter Word

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 695 *(sung twice)*

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Oscar Romero*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction

of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
 which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
 No statement says all that could be said.
 No prayer fully expresses our faith.
 No confession brings perfection.
 No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
 No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
 No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
 This is what we are about.
 We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
 We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
 We lay foundations that will need further development.
 We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
 This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
 It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
 a step along the way, an opportunity
 for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
 We may never see the end results,
 but that is the difference between the great builder and the worker.
 We are workers, not great builders; ministers, not messiahs.
 We are prophets of a future not our own.

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

Grazioso

Telemann

*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 our generous Creator, we cannot do all things. But this we can do: we can
 give these gifts, these tithes, these pledges, as a sign of our trust in you. We can
 trust that you will do, and are doing, a new thing in our midst. We can put our
 resources and bodies on the line for those who long for supportive community.

We can bear the image of your face in our hands and feet, in our praying, our giving, and our doing. Abundant God, with your presence guiding us, we can do even more than we ask or imagine. Open us to your newness. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Morning Song

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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 Thom Shuman, Henrietta Stith Andrews, Kate Bowler, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

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:

Katie Phillips, Liturgist

Barbara Edwards, Children's Gathering

