



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 23, 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

Reign of Christ Sunday

10:00am

November 23, 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 *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of humanity. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered people have torn down people other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day humankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every person shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome!

Prelude

Seek Ye First

Arr. Mark Zeeman

*Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God who looks with kindness on us.

**We are the inheritors of the promises
made long ago to our faith ancestors.**

Blessed be the Lord God who gathers us here in this place.

**From across the street, from halfway around the world,
God brings us home to the heart of grace.**

Blessed be the Lord God who has remembered us.

**Scoffers and singers, watchers and worriers,
we are those redeemed by God.**

*Hymn (GTG) No. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, lay aside the burdens that are too heavy to bear, before the God of abundant grace and mercy. Do not fear drawing near in honesty; this God already draws near to each of us, to all of us.

Prayer of Confession

In these moments, Remembering God, we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people: we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive; we cast our lots with those who worship power and success; we offer insults rather than words of grace to those who care for us; we scoff at your words which call us to a different way of life. Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others, to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope.

(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

Receive this truth: you are God's child. You are forgiven, freed, and called to a life of service and joy. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Kristin Hartwell

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6 (page 711, red Bible)

Anthem

Let the Redeemed of the Lord

John Purifoy

(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79 (pages 932-933, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

The Way of Peace

Rev. Dr. Jen Bluestein

*Hymn (GTG) No. 175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *Nicene Creed (hymnal page 34)*

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

Moderato con moto

Franck

*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 creatures, we offer these gifts for the making of a world that is just,
fair, and good. We offer our lives for the care of our neighbor, especially those
who are harmed by systems of power and greed. We offer our whole hearts to
you, that you might continue to work through us, and through these gifts, as we
co-create a better world, together. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Procession

Grieg

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, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

We are delighted to welcome guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Jen Bluestein! She is the Coordinator of Generational Leadership Development for Grace Presbytery.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jen Bluestein, Guest Preacher

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Sheryl Taylor, Liturgist

Kristin Hartwell, Children's Gathering

