EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 29, 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

The First Sunday of Advent

10:00am November 29, 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

Light within all light, Soul behind all souls: at the breaking of dawn, at the coming of day, we wait and watch. Your Light within the morning light. Your Soul within the human soul. Your Presence beckoning us from the heart of life. In the dawning of this day, let us know fresh shinings in our soul. In the growing colors of new beginning all around us, let us know the first lights of our heart. Great Star of the morning, Inner Flame of the universe, let us be a color in this new dawning.

Prelude Waiting for Messiah Robert W. Thygerson

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-3, 14-19 Beverly and Blaise Ferrandino

Litany

We worship with all of creation this Advent season!
With glittering galaxies high in the sky,
radiating the splendor of God's presence.
With distant domains of space, we celebrate that there is no dark or cold
where God will not break in with delight.
We swirl with nebula, stardust, nova, and red giant stars
thanking God for being formed in creative love.
We dance with the rhythm of God's presence coming
to walk among us and bless this garden planet.
We are part of a community unbound by time or space,
and together, we shine with the radiance of our coming Christ!

Sung Response: (GTG) No. 84, *verses 1-2* Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALIME SIDERUM

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

Lighting the First Advent Candle (Hope)

As we light this candle of hope,
we enter together into the holy season of Advent:
a season where the heavens declare the glory of God,
where stars point the way to the cosmic coming of Christ.
We invite God to rekindle this hope in us, and in a weary world,
activating the stardust in our bones until, together, we shine.
We welcome God.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 105 People Look East BESANÇON

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, prepare the way of the Lord: the way of hope, peace, joy, and love. Open your hearts and let the light in, as together we rediscover the radiance of grace.

Prayer of Confession

God of the Universe, we confess we are sometimes like those who seek to dominate, who praise self-interest and exercise power. We sometimes think we live in a blank universe we can shape by force. But the universe is not neutral. It hums, it vibrates, it shines, with your love, O Creator. In humility and compassion, we empty ourselves of all self-interest in love for the whole. Through the goodness of you, Coming Christ, we join in the mending of the world. *(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)* Amen.

Sung Response (GTG) No. 370, verse 1 This Is My Maker's World TERRA BEATA

This is my Maker's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Maker's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and sees, God's hand the wonders wrought.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news, and let it settle in the stardust in your bones: the goodness of God woven into all of creation and us cannot be undone. God's goodness is never wasted, and never erased. **We are God's good creation. We are made and re-made in love. In our coming Christ, we are already forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering Tonia Thompson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 (pages 680-681, red Bible)

Anthem The Advent Rose arr. Joseph M. Martin
(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)
Soloists: Jim Mahon & Mary Ann Reed

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37 (pages 925-926, red Bible)
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon Starry Advent: Exploding Stars Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche
*Hymn (GTG) No. 850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *P.C.(U.S.A.) Affirmation of Creation (2016)*

We affirm:
That God has been calling this universe into being for at least 13.8 billion years and continues calling upon the Creation to bring forth new creatures;
That God's creative call has resulted in virtually countless stars and planetary systems, and new stars and planetary systems are continuing to be created;
That, in response to God's creative call, the Earth took form at least 4.6 billion years ago;
That, in response to God's call, living creatures emerged on the Earth at least 3.6 billion years ago;
That God has connected all life on Earth in a network of kinship by virtue of biological evolution from common ancestors;
That, in the providence of God, we Homo sapiens have come to exercise extraordinary power over other creatures and their habitats, the Earth's geological structures, and the meteorological systems of the Earth;
That, by virtue of the powers of intellect and creativity called forth in us by God, we bear exceptional responsibility for the future of the Earth and all its creatures.

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 Thanksgiving Hymn Colin Curtis
*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 creation, we offer these gifts in a spirit of generosity and holy possibility. Use them to send your love and compassion for all who hunger, for all who grieve, for all who are lonely, and for all who need your light to break in during this season. Continue expanding your universe of care through us. We pray in the name of our coming Christ, the bright morning star, amen.

Reception of New Member Cathy Shoop

Questions to Those Joining

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

Questions to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this new member by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? **We will.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude Praise the Lord, Ye Nations May F. Lawrence

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

Liturgy by: John Philip Newell, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Affirmation of Creation approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

<u>Worship Leaders</u>

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor
Brittney Axton, Director of Music
Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist
Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:
Leah Wyckoff, Liturgist
Tonia Thompson, Children's Gathering