



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, November 30, 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

The First Sunday of Advent

10:00am

November 30, 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

We come to know you, Holy One, as Wisdom Incarnate, as Flickering Flame, as Spirit of Life, as hope, peace, joy, and love, enfleshed. You come to us as the stranger, and the strange. Often we do not recognize you. Often we turn away from your gifts and your demands. Yet you come to us in wilderness, in the impossible made possible, in silence and singing and sighs too deep for words. You abhor dominance, mastery, fear, and control. You are made known to us in vulnerability, and courage, and divesting from the powers of empire. We come to you this Advent in need, with longing, in pain, captive to fear, desiring a more just world, a more livable life for all of us, for the earth, for every living thing caught and held in this inescapable network of mutual interdependence. We long for you. We long for healing. We long for liberation. We long for different systems and patterns of relating. And so, this Advent, we pause. We breathe. We pray. We dig deep. We reach out. We rise up. We remember. We vision. We sit with the pain. We stay with the trouble. We wait, expectant. We light candles. We labor. We open to You, and to one another, and to the Sacred Mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Love Incarnate, Divinity Enfleshed.

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Brahms

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-4

John Field & Kristin Hartwell

Litany

The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome,
or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending.

Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded.

The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding.

**The Hope of God-With-Us is collective,
liberating us from complacency.**

Hope waits in darkness; it comes unexpectedly.

Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation.

Prepare the way for hope with courage.

May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

Sung Response: (GTG) No. 92, verse 1 While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

*While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.*

Lighting the First Advent Candle (Hope)

As we light this candle of hope,
we enter together into the holy season of Advent:
a season of wandering strangers,
of a migrant God seeking a home with us.
This season of hope comes whether we are ready or not,
but when we welcome it, in welcoming the stranger and the migrant,
in seeking fresh paths of faithfulness ourselves,
we welcome God.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

Come, weary traveler, whether your weariness lies in not knowing a home of safety and comfort, or in your own internal restlessness. Draw near to the God who comes as one of us, as a weary traveler making a home with us, and within us.

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, God, when we live our lives within the lines; when we say that the shape of our work is the boundary of our habitation. That these are the limits to our love. That these are the lines of our vision and our welcome; these, and none other. At the edges of our borders, you wait. And at our territorial lines, you linger. Because the place where we touch beyond our boundaries is where you take your delight. And when we learn to read the landscape of our fears, and when we come to know the terrain of every sorrow, then we will turn our fences into bridges, and our borders into paths of peace.

(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession) Amen.

Sung Response (GTG) No. 89 (*verse 4*) For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.*

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting, and the hills bow down in greeting.

Assurance of Pardon

God of making and unmaking, of tearing down and re-creating, you are our home and habitation, our refuge and place of dwelling. **In your hollows, we are re-formed, given welcome and benediction, beckoned to rest and rise again, made ready, and sent forth.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 19:1-10 (page 105, red Bible)

Anthem

Come, Messiah!

arr. Lloyd Larson

from *The Road to Bethlehem*

(*Emmanuel Chancel Choir*)

Old Testament Reading

Ruth 2:1-12 (page 239, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title

Feeding the Wanderer

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 183

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

AUSTIN

We Experience God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith *The Creed of the Pilgrim God*, Margarita Ouwerkerk, Argentina

We believe in a pilgrim God,

who crosses frontiers, boundaries and barriers,

who leaves greatness behind and meets us on the way

and comes to us holding out their hand.

'I am the Lord, your God, I care for you, I am coming with you.'

We believe in Jesus Christ, who walked on our earth,

who was born homeless, who found no place to lay his head,

wandering, journeying, even when a child, pursued.

He revealed justice, brought people peace,

and played out his life even unto death itself.

We believe in the Spirit, who shapes and polishes us,

with blasts of wind and sand,

who gives us courage to witness

to the boundless grace of God.

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

**Giving God, we thank you for the food we have had this day, for bellies that are
full and hearts that bear the hope of this season. Show us how we might use
these resources for those who hunger for food as well as hope. Prepare in us a
generosity that will nourish our community and world, in your name, amen.**

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 95 Prepare the Way of the Lord (*sung twice*) PREPARE THE WAY

*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.

*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.

Liturgy by: Anna Blaedel, Jan Richardson, Margarita Ouwerkerk, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.

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:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

