



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 28, 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

1st Sunday after Christmas

10:00am

December 28, 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

Wrap us in the shawl of compassion, God of holiness, so that this season of goodness and giving might last longer than the after-Christmas sales. Slip our hands into the gloves of humility, Sibling of the overlooked, so we might join in your work of rebuilding communities, feeding the hungry, embracing the outsiders. Teach us your patient ways, Wisdom from on high, so we would learn to notice what we have in common with others, rather than what divides us; so we might offer kindness in the face of bitterness and hurt. May all we do with our hands, our hearts, our minds, our feet, our lives be done in the name of the One who came as one of us, to show us what it means to be human, to be children of God, together.

Prelude

In Quiet Joy

Dupré

*Call to Worship

We come to this place of worship

not as perfect people, but as people who seek

a better way for our lives and this world:

the way of peace.

The way of love.

The way of hope.

The way of joy.

The way of a shared life, drawn together by the love of God,

imperfectly walking toward the Christ child together.

*Hymn (GTG) No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

We Are Renewed in Grace

Invitation to Confession

We like to think we are wise beyond our years, but when we look at our lives as God's people, we discover we still act with selfishness, bitterness, and regret. God invites us to a better community of care and peace. Let us confess our sin before God together.

Prayer of Confession

God, we are a distracted and dissatisfied people. Believing we are wiser than you, we are amazed that you would question our actions and lives. Offering us the warmth of your love, we would rather slip our lives into bitterness and anger. Challenging us to carry one another's burdens, we complain about how heavy and uncomfortable they are. Forgive us, Searching God, and clothe us with your gifts of compassion, humility, patience, and hope. Then, dressed as your grateful people, send us forth to live as siblings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(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 you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you. MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS
O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;
we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;
open to us the pathway of your peace.
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.

Assurance of Pardon

The good news is simple: God loves us so much, we are forgiven and granted new life. **Praise God! As forgiven people, we will go to forgive others, and share God's grace with them. Amen.**

We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering

Ken Richardson

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:1-8, 15-19 (page 1072, red Bible)

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Richardson

(Grace Notes)

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 22:10-11, 19-31 (pages 490, 491, red Bible)

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

Sermon Title "Why I Stay" by Debie Thomas Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche

*Hymn (GTG) No. 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Arr. Lee Evans

*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

**May the gifts we share be from the heart, just as yours was that day, God of
Bethlehem. May they serve those who look for welcome, those who struggle
with loss and grief, those who need to be blessed by hope This we pray in the
name of your Child, Jesus. Amen.**

Reception of New Member Kirstin Smith

Presentation of Candidate for Membership

Questions to Kirsten

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 Kirsten with joy 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.**

Prayer

Declaration of Membership

We Leave to Serve

*Hymn (GTG) No. 300

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude

Echo Chorus

Stewart Landon

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 Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Thom Shuman.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Grace Notes

Assisting in Today's Service:

Dina Ferreira, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

