



Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Empowering People in Christ

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, December 24, 2025

5:00pm

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

Christmas Eve

5:00pm

December 24, 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

The tradition of the Lessons & Carols service dates back to 19th Century England. This special service proclaims the Word not through a traditional sermon, but through 'lessons,' or scripture readings, and accompanying carols. May this be a time for you to connect with the story of angels and messengers sharing the good news that God is with us. We are not alone. A child has come.

Prelude

Still, Still, Still
(Emmanuel Bell Choir)

arr. Bill Ingram

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sheryl and James Taylor

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:1-6

Litany: *Please join me in the litany as our Call to Worship.*

Tonight is the night we celebrate that God has made a home with us.

God has shown us the meaning of home.

Not a place of closed doors, and fear of outsiders,
but a place where hope, peace, joy, and love dwell.

Where no one is left out in the cold.

For strangers are sometimes angels,
and we all know what it is to long for safety and rest.

**God has made a home with us, that we may finally
make a home with one another
on this weary and wonderful earth,
where a brown-skinned baby under a borrowed roof
learned his first steps of our salvation.**

Sung Response: Hymn 92 (verse 3) While We Are Waiting, Come

Come, Savior, quickly come;

come, Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

while we are waiting, come.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As we light the Christ candle,
we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
We may not feel ready for such a birth,
but still, Jesus comes, and invites us all to come home.
Come home to our belonging to each other.
Come home to our truest, kindest selves.
Come home to God-With-Us.

THE FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-10	Claire Morris
CAROL #133 (GTG)	O Come, All Ye Faithful (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	ADESTE FIDELES
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 35:1-10	Nancy Cable
CAROL	Christ is Born in Bethlehem (<i>Emmanuel Chancel Choir</i>)	Lloyd Larson
THE THIRD LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	Tonia Thompson
CAROL #134 (GTG)	Joy to the World (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	ANTIOCH
THE FOURTH LESSON	Matthew 1:18-25	James Fisk
CAROL #123 (GTG)	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	CAROL CMD
THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:39-58	Blaise Ferrandino
CAROL #100 (GTG)	Canticle of the Turning (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Denise Karriker
CAROL #119 (GTG)	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	MENDELSSOHN
THE SEVENTH LESSON	John 1:1-14	Katie Phillips
CAROL #88 (GTG)	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (<i>vs 1-2</i>)	VENI EMMANUEL

*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

*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

**We make our offering this night, to you, Christ child. We offer resources to serve
the most vulnerable among us. We offer forgiveness to those we bear anger
towards, especially ourselves. We offer peace to a world desperate for a night silent
from the sounds of violence. We offer all of ourselves, to you, Christ child. Amen.**

*Departing Carol (GTG) No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

(Please extinguish your candle before moving above as the lights are brought back up.)

*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

*Sign of Peace

*Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn/arr. Robert Hughes

*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.

T HE WORK OF CHRISTMAS by Howard Thurman

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.*



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

