

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Communion Worship Service
Sunday, July 7, 2024

Opening Sentences

- We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of you temple.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord,
calls us to believe the good news of salvation.

His grace is sufficient for us.

Let us enter into God's new realm rejoicing,
**not in our own strength, but in the power
of the Holy Spirit.**

Let us worship God.

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

GG #625

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds
thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim "My God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Prayer of the Day

God the Creator, God of the cross,
you show your power
in whirling galaxies and unseen forces.
You show your love
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Drive out the evils that threaten to break our spirits
and help us to rely on your all-sufficient grace,
for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Confession

Threats to life pierce us
and cause us to doubt God's love.
But God shows his love for us
in that while we were yet sinners
Christ died for us
Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Three in One,
we confess that we do not believe
that you have overcome sin and death.
We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness
than we are with the power of your love.
In fear, we worship idols;
In despair, we collapse in hopelessness;
In rage, we seek to dominate others.
O God of David, forgive us.
O Son of David, have mercy on us,
O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace.
Send us out with the good news:
nothing can withstand the victory
of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear and believe this good news:
Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary,
Son of the Most High God,
was broken and poured out
for our salvation.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, we are healed and made whole. Amen.

Act of Praise

Great Are You Lord

GG #614

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;
by your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;
by your mercy you prove you are love.
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice;
we lift up our voice: great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Savior God,
You gave Zion as stronghold for David.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
speak to us through Jesus Christ, your living Word.

Responsive Reading from Psalm

Psalm 48

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
His holy mountain.
² **Beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion,
in the far north, the city of the great King.**
³ Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.
⁴ **Then the kings assembled, they came on together.**
⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;
⁶ **Trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor,**
⁷ As when an east wind shatters the ships Tarshish.
⁸ **As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our god, which God establishes forever.**

⁹ We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

¹⁰ **Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.**

Your right hand is filled with victory.

¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

¹² **Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers.**

¹³ consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation

¹⁴ **that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1 – 13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."

⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

and sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the church.

In a broken and fearful world,

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives.

Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

GG #65

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;

be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;

I will ever give to thee.

Invitation to the Offering

The Lord said to the apostle Paul.
My grace is sufficient for you...
Jesus also said to Peter,
Every one to whom much is given,
of him much will be required.
Let us bear witness to the love of God
By presenting our offerings of thanksgiving.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

How Great Thou Art, refrain

GG #625

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
We thank you for the suffering love of Jesus
and for your presence with us
in times of joy and sorrow, sickness and health.
faithfulness and brokenness.
We bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude
and as tools in the ministry of the church.
Use them and us to make known the good news
of your healing love and renewing power,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Lord's Prayer

Sharing Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Let us eat.
The cup of the new covenant sealed in Christ.
Let us drink.

Prayer after Communion

Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

GG #726

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Will You Come and Follow Me, v.1

GG #726

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and in me?”

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Dan Bautista

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