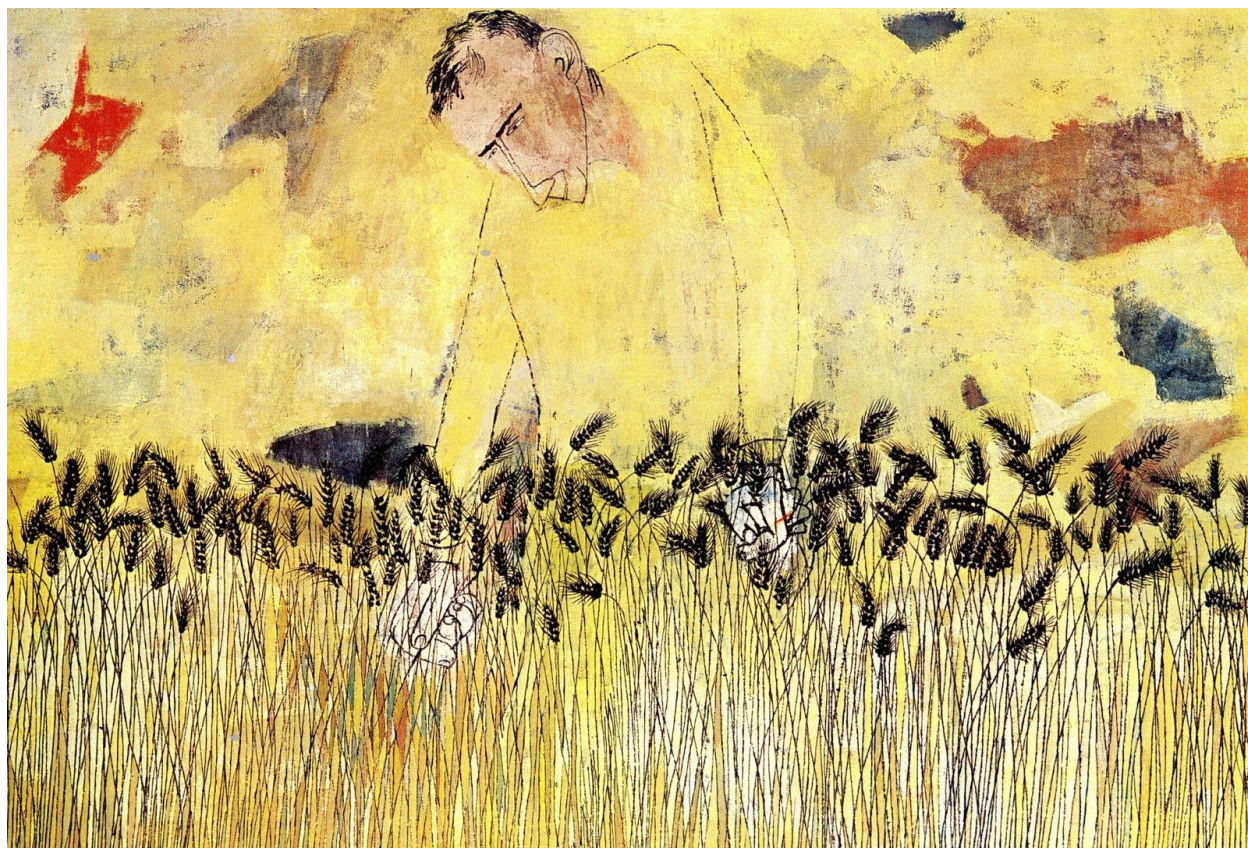


# Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen  
Communion Worship Service  
Sunday, June 2, 2024



Ben Shahn  
*Beatitude*

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## Opening Sentences

- God has called us here, each by our own name.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

### Call to Worship

The God who has searched us and knows us,  
who is acquainted with all our ways,  
that God calls us each by name.

**Speak, Holy One, your servants are listening!**

The God who liberated slaves from Egypt,  
the Lord of the Sabbath who bids us rest,  
that God empowers us  
to make Jesus' life visible in our very bodies.

**Speak, Holy One, your servants are listening!**

**We will sing aloud to God our strength,  
and shout for joy to the God of Jacob.**

### Hymn

God is Here!, v. 1-3

GG #409

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

### Prayer of the Day

Lord God, who brings us mornings and beginnings,  
touch our hearts to hear your call today.  
Grant us faith to rely  
on your extraordinary power in us,  
that the life of Jesus may be made visible  
as we glorify you in all we do. Amen.

### Call to Confession

Even before we speak, God knows our wounds and our wrongs.  
Yet our repentance opens our hearts to God,  
who waits to hear us, already holding out mercy, granting forgiveness.  
In faith and trust, let us confess all that separates us  
from God and others.

### Prayer of Confession

**God who formed our inward parts and knows our hearts,  
forgive us.  
Instead of acknowledging you as our God,  
we make our own idols.  
Instead of proclaiming Jesus Christ as our Lord,  
we proclaim ourselves.  
Instead of turning to the Holy Spirit,  
we think we can use our own understanding  
to find and follow your way.  
Redirect our wrong ways  
and lead us to the ways that make Jesus visible in our lives.  
Amen.**

*A moment of silent prayer.*

### Declaration of Forgiveness

In Christ, we have died to our old selves and become new creations.  
Therefore, we can trust in the good news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.  
Thanks be to God!**

Act of Praise      Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me      GG #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### Introduction of New Member – Caly Fernandez

### 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

Shine in our hearts, O God,  
so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we may grow in the knowledge of your glory,  
proclaiming Jesus Christ and not ourselves,  
until his life is made visible in us,  
even in us. Amen.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 2:23 – 3:6

One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup> The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? <sup>26</sup> He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup> so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

3:<sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup> He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

## Sermon



James Tissot  
*The Man with the Withered Hand*

## Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

## Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

GG #182

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.  
  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.  
  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

## Time with the Younger Church

### Invitation to the Offering

If we take a moment to reflect where our rich blessings come from,  
we know they are from the Lord.  
Let us acknowledge God as the source of our blessings  
through offering our gifts and ourselves.

### Offertory



Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Offertory Prayer

God of every harvest,  
we offer our lives and  
the fruit of our labors to you  
that we may proclaim  
the life of Jesus Christ,  
the true gift to all. Amen.



Jean Francois Millet  
*The Gleaners*

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Christ invites all who hunger  
to come to his table.  
Here is the bread of life;  
here is the cup of salvation.  
Just as our God fed us  
in the desert and on hillsides,  
in upper rooms and along lakeshores,  
so does God feed us here.  
Come, everyone is welcome at this table of our Lord.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you / **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
It is right and our great delight to praise you, O god.  
In the beginning of time, your wisdom danced through creation,  
calling forth light and life.  
Through wisdom, you formed us in your image,  
calling us to love and serve you.  
Foolishly we turned from you  
and abandoned your ways of justice and mercy.  
Yet you did not reject us,  
but continued to call us and claim us as your own.

We were slaves in Egypt and you freed us.  
We were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness,  
and you nourished us with manna and water from the rock.  
We had no home, and you led us into the land of your promise.  
We worshiped idols of our own making,  
and you called to us through the prophets to turn back to you.  
At last you emptied yourself of power  
and came to us as the child of Mary,  
holy God in frail and human flesh.

Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, O God of power and might,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, the one who comes in your name.  
In his life, he called unlikely people to follow him:  
fisherfolk, tax collectors, children,  
sinners, deniers, betrayers.

On the cross he gave himself up to the powers of this world,  
showing in his body your great foolishness, O God,  
for loving such a wayward world.

Yet by this very cross, O Wisdom from on high,  
you have undone and remade the wisdom of this world,  
drawing light from darkness, power from humiliation,  
life from death itself.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come, then, life-giving Spirit,  
brood over these bodily things  
and make us into one body with Christ,  
that we, who are baptized into his death,  
may walk in newness of life.

We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ has taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

### 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

Christ Jesus, Lord of the sabbath,  
you have come to this house  
to eat and drink with us.  
You have fed us and filled us –  
with the grain of the field  
and the fruit of the vine,  
with the strength of your Word  
and the life of your Spirit.  
Now send us forth in service  
to share your gifts with others.  
Let us scatter the seed of justice  
and harvest the fruit of peace,  
all for the sake of your eternal realm  
and the glory of your holy name. Amen.





Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

GG #529

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name  
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

GG #747

*Refrain in English and Spanish*

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a better place to live.

*Enviado soy de Dios, mi mano lista esta*

*para construir con él un mundo fraternal. (repeat)*

Postlude

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**Today's Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Chris Leonard

Beverly Avila

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**FPC McAllen Contact Information:**

Street Address: 104 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street; McAllen, TX 78501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505

Church phone: 956-682-2836

website: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

Pastor: [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com)

Church Administrator: [fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net)