

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian
Church McAllen, Texas

May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Gustav Klimt
The Tree of Life

Welcome and Opening Sentences

- God's goodness is breaking into the world, gathering all creation into God's kingdom of healing, wholeness, restoration, and peace.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Psalm 67

Please rise in body or in spirit.

May God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make God's face to shine upon us,
that God's way may be known upon earth,
God's saving power among all nations.

**Let all the people praise God;
let all the people sing praise!**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for God judges the peoples with equity
and guides the nations upon earth.

**Let the people praise God;
let all the people sing praise!**

*All the images in this Order of Worship are
variations on the theme: "Tree of Life".*

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Prayer of the Day

Loving God,
you have made a home with us
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Now send us your Holy Spirit
to teach us your way
so that we will keep your word
and live in peace;
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Call to Confession

We are a people in need of God’s reconciliation,
praying that our faces might be illumined by God’s presence.
Let us claim our need of God
as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
we confess that we are an anxious people
who deny your blessing and fail to keep your word.
Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins,
that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Forgiveness

Peace, peace, peace –

you are loved. You are enough. You belong.

Friends, hear and 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

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!, v. 1

GG #248

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

The Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Anthem

Gospel Reading

John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”²⁴

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you.”²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do

not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you love me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe."

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peace-maker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Hymn

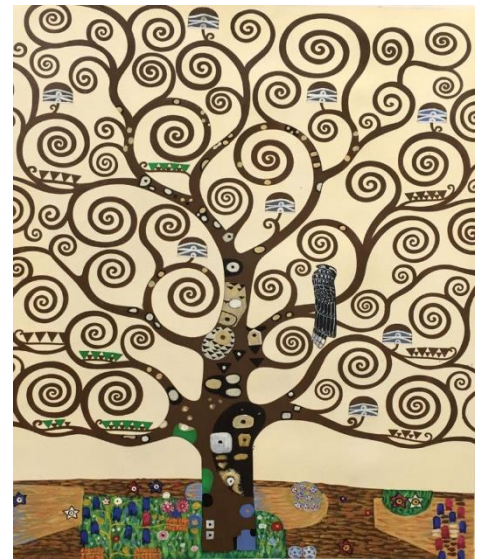
This is My Song

GG #340

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

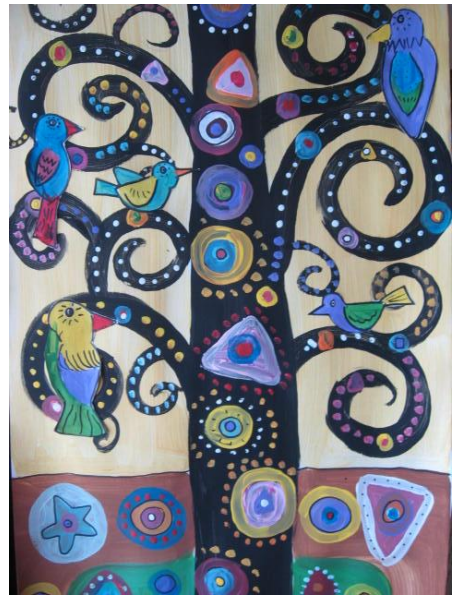
This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.



Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

God of life-giving water and fruit-bearing trees,
God of city streets and country paths,
God of all who search for peace and justice,
we give you thanks for moonlight, sunlight,
and candlelight, and streetlights,
for dreams of the future,
and tales of events from long ago.
We give you thanks for the joy of new birth,
and for long years filled with memory and hope.
We give you thanks for voices
that sing and talk and laugh,
for toes that tap and hands that clap.
We give you thanks for hugs and hellos,
for letters and phone calls and emails and shared glances,
for all the ways you have given us to say
that we love one another.
From the fullness of our hearts,
we give you thanks for all the blessings that we can name,
and for the many blessings all around us
that we never even notice.

God of hope and healing,
God of promise and blessing,
God of all who yearn for wholeness,
our hearts are places of sorrow as well as of thanksgiving.
We are troubled by the world's brokenness and pain.
When the morning news is filled
with stories of war and violence,
of terrorists and tyrants,
of corruption and dishonesty,
of prejudice and harassment,
of lives burdened and destroyed by hatred and oppression,
we pray that you will remember your people,
and wipe away every tear.



When our loved ones fall ill,
when our bodies fail us,
when wildfires rage in the mountains or in our hearts,
when the pain of the world is too much for us to bear,
we cry out to you for comfort and peace.

Holy God of the lost and the least,
God of all compassion,
God of love and peace,
we trust that you will hear and heed
our prayers for this world;
we trust that all creation is in your tender care.
In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.



Let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

The earth has yielded its increase
and God has richly blessed us.
Therefore, let us bring our tithes and offerings
and come into God's courts with praise.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks, v. 4 and refrain GG #240

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms
in witness to your love,
you bless us from generation to generation
with the new life of Easter faith.
All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God,
so we gladly share this offering,
that others too may be blessed,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn Song of Hope (in English and Spanish)

GG #765

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*Dios de la esperanza, danos go-zo y paz !
Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.
Dios de las justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la os-cu-ri-dad.
Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor.
Luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.*



Peter Ray James
A Mother's Love Tree of Life

Charge and Benediction

Go gladly into the world.
Be filled with the love of God.
Dance to the song of the Spirit.
Befriend the Christ in each new day.

Congregational Response We Are One in the Spirit, *refrain*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila Robert Garza Ale Pacheco

Caly Fernandez
FPC Chancel Choir

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