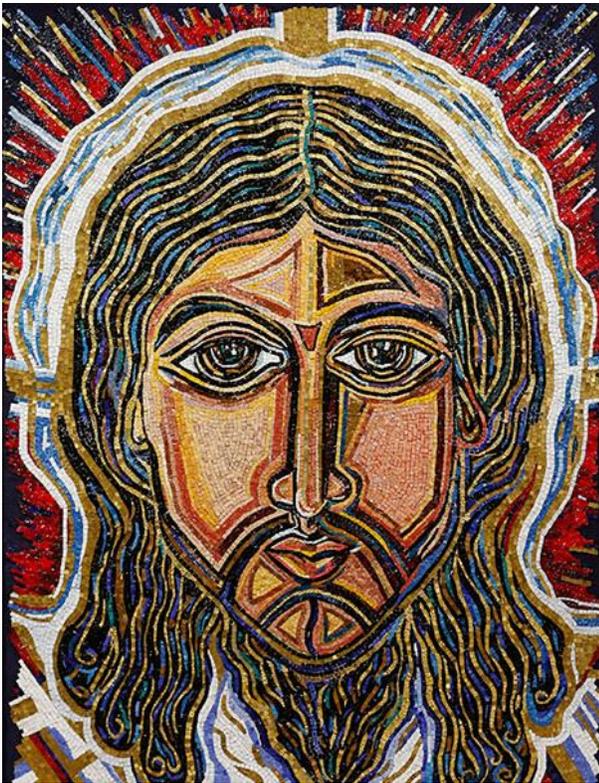

Church for A New Time

God Summons Us To:

- ◆ ***Faithful Growth***
 - ◆ ***Bold Witness***
 - ◆ ***Compassionate Mission***
-

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Sunday Worship -- June 26, 2022



*Follow me ...
go and proclaim the kingdom of God.*

*Face of Christ mosaic
Basilica of San Lorenzo
Florence, Italy*

Opening Sentences

- God, who rules the universe calls us; Christ, who took up his cross, calls us; Holy Spirit, who frees us body and soul, calls us.
- Let us faithfully answer by worshiping the triune God.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Psalm 16

The Lord is always before us;
with God at our right hand,
we shall not be moved.

**Therefore, our hearts are glad,
our souls rejoice,
and our bodies rest secure.**

God does not give up on us;
the Lord raises us from death.

**God shows us the path of life;
in the presence of the Lord
there is fullness of joy.**

Opening Hymn When in the Night I Meditate (Psalm 16), v. 1,2,5 GG #810

When in the night I meditate on mercies multiplied,
my grateful heart inspires my tongue to bless the Lord, my guide.

Forever in my thought, the Lord before my face shall stand;
secure, unmoved I shall remain, with God at my right hand.

The path of life of life you show to me; of joy a boundless store
is ever found at your right hand, and pleasures evermore.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, through Jesus Christ
you have called us to follow you
and not look back.
Lead us forth in faith,
proclaiming the good news
of your coming realm
of righteousness, justice, and peace.
Make us fit to follow you,
setting our faces toward the new
Jerusalem;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.



Limbourg brothers
The Apostles Going Forth to Preach

Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us
through Jesus Christ
who came into the world to save sinners.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, bestower of every good gift,
we long to know true freedom in Christ
and to taste the fruit of your Spirit,
but we remain slaves to our baser instincts
and prisoners of our petty quarrels;
we yearn to love our neighbor as ourselves
and to know perfect forgiveness in that love,
but we cling to old wounds
and hold onto old injuries.

Help us to claim the inheritance you hold out to us,
that our lives may bear the fruit of your Spirit:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ came to set us free,
that we might have life and have it abundantly.
Friends, hear and trust 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, v. 1 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.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Prayer for Illumination

Holy and gracious God,
you call us to ventures that cannot be foretold,
to paths we do not know.
Be our guide, through your word,
and feed us with your assurance
that your way is truly the path of love, joy, and peace. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:51-62 (NRSV)

When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."



Thomas Hart Benton
Planting (Spring Plowing)

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

Sermon

Fire Power

Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe:

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

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 peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

GG #761

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

We pray now in Jesus' name for the church, the world,
and all who are in need, saying:
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Holy God of healing and peace,
we thank you for life and health;
for morning and evening; for rain and sun;
for all you give us to sustain life;
and most of all for Jesus,
who died and rose again to make real the promise of new life.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We ask, O God, for a church that ministers every day
to bring people together in your name,
for hearts that will not judge,
for minds that recognize injustice and oppression in all its forms,
for hands that are open to answer your call.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, the nations you have called into being
are many and full of marvels.
We pray for their well-being;
for leaders and workers; teachers and soldiers;
scholars, artists, parents, and peacemakers;
for nations and people in strife,
especially this day for Ukraine, for Yemen _____
that your way be known in all the lands and joy may reign.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Turn our hearts, Holy One,
to respect and honor those who are not like us;
let us see in peoples of every nation
the majesty of your desire for richness and difference.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We pray for bodies and spirits healed,
for those who are in pain,
for those awaiting surgery,
for those who are struggling with physical therapies,
for those awaiting death,
and for those whose names we hold in our hearts ...
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We ask your special blessing, O God,
on the children in our communities,
for their play and work in this summertime
to give them strength and renewal;
for an ever-increasing opening of their minds,
new ways of seeing,
new understandings of the gifts you call them to use;
for their happiness and health.
We lift up to you all children who are in peril this day
through war or unrest or famine or drought;
who face danger or instability of any kind.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

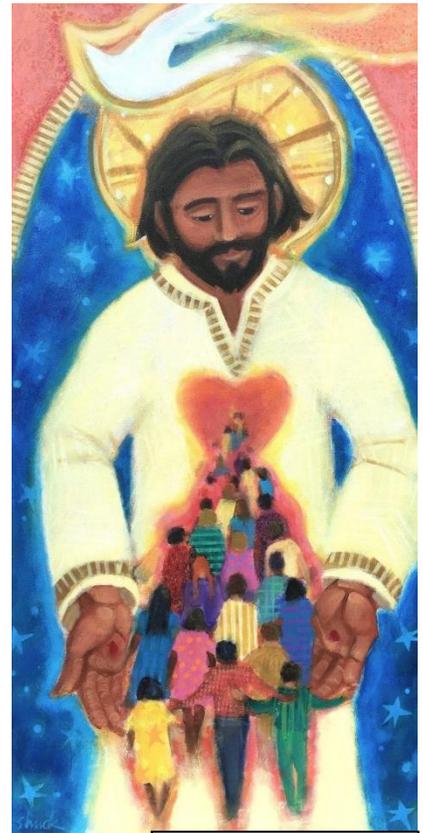
We give you thanks for the saints you have placed in our lives:
the mentors, guides, and friends
who have shown us how to grow in faith,
and taught us how to proclaim your love.
Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we place our prayers
and all whose welfare we entrust to your care.
Bless them and all who have needs only you can know.
In thanksgiving for all your gifts,
we pray this in the holy name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who taught us to pray together saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

The blessings that come from God
are rich like the fruits of summer.
With our tithes and our offerings,
let us give thanks and praise to the triune God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Offertory



Vicki Shuck
Jesus, Path of Love

Act of Dedication God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, v. 1

GG #716

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonders, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Offertory Prayer

Take these gifts, O God, for the work of this church.
Let them go forth into the world
as signs of your love and faithfulness.
In the name of the one who gave himself for us, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Take My Life, v. 1-3

GG #697

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

The Life of the Church

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Take My Life, v. 6

GG #697

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila

Lita Simpson
Robert Garza

Ann Rowland
Ale Pacheco
