

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
October 18, 2026



Titian
The Tribute Money

Opening Sentences

- The Lord is our eternal dwelling place; from age to age, the Lord is our God.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Friends, we are loved by God.

The ruler of heaven and earth knows each of us by name.

God hears and answers us when we call.

God shows compassion and kindness to us.

May our lives praise and magnify our great and awesome God.

**We have come to worship the One whose image
is imprinted within us.**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small.
in all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Prayer of the Day

God of servant rule,
your kingdom breaks our tangled webs
where state and church collude
to worship power and trade on fear:
grant us the wit and will
to give you what is your own,
no more nor less
than all the world and time;
through Jesus Christ, whose kingdom comes.
Amen.

Call to Confession

God has chosen us,
but we frequently fail to choose
God's will for our lives.
Let us go before God,
seeking forgiveness and peace.

Prayer of Confession

**Living Lord,
in you we live and move and have our being.
You call us to give all that we are
and all that we have
in service to Christ.
But we hold tightly to our treasure,
afraid we will not have enough for ourselves,
and hold back our talents,
afraid these gifts will not be enough.
God, unclench our fists,
and help us to give fully and freely
so that, in all things,
we might serve and glorify you.**

A moment of silent confession

Assurance of Grace

Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice!
Let the sea roar with laughter,
the fields shout in celebration,
and the forests sing with joy:
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.
Thanks be to God!**



Act of Praise Holy, Holy, Holy / *Santo, santo, santo*

GG #595

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

*Santo, santo, santo. Me corazón te adora!
Me corazón te sabe decir: Santo eres, Señor!*

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Time with the Younger Church

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.



Hans Schüpflein; Das Plenarium
Christ and the Pharisees

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of 1967

**Life is a gift to be received with gratitude
and a task to be pursued with courage.
People are free to seek life
within the purpose of God:
to develop and protect the resources of nature
for the common welfare,
to work for justice and peace in society,
and in other ways to use their creative powers
for the fulfillment of human life. (9.17)**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blesses us, to thee our first fruits give.

The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

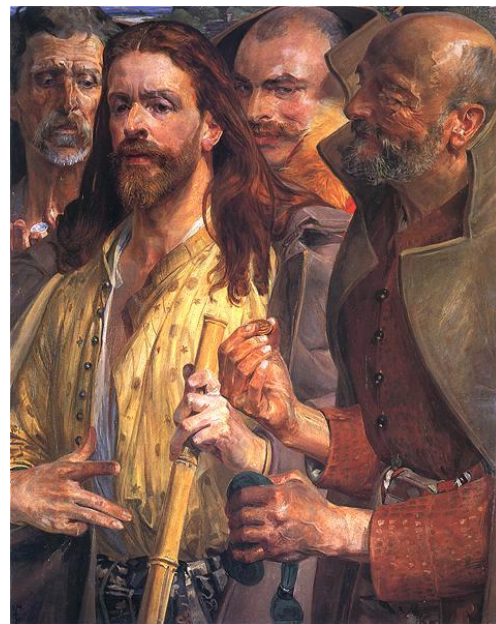
Lord God, with gratitude for your goodness,
we come to you in prayer –
for our family and friends,
for our siblings in faith,
and for the world of nations you have made.

Remember those who are dear to us:
**Wrap your steadfast love around them,
sustain them in times of trouble,
and keep them always in your care.**

Remember the church of Jesus Christ:
**Empower us to proclaim the gospel,
strengthen us in our conviction,
and make us imitators of our Lord.**

Remember the family of nations:
**Send out your Spirit to renew the earth,
welcome all people into your house,
and let your love be known in all the world.**

Holy God, we have lifted to you
the concerns and hopes of our hearts,
in trust that you hear and respond.
But there are concerns and hopes
beyond what we speak, beyond what we know.
We trust that they too are heard
and held within your steadfast love.



Jacek Malczewski
The Tribute Money

To you, O God, Maker of heaven and earth,
through the power of the Holy Spirit,
in the grace and peace of Christ we pray.

Amen.

And now let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

The Lord made the heavens,
and all the earth belongs to God.
As Jesus taught us,
let us give to God the things that are God's own.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

Lord of All Good, v. 1

GG #711

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

Offertory Prayer

All honor and majesty, strength and beauty
are yours, Almighty God,
maker of heaven and earth.
Let these simple offerings we bring
be a sign of the great glory
that is due to your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me, v. 1-4

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 you 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 stare?
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 captives 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?”

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Will You Come and Follow Me, v. 5 GG #726

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.

Postlude

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

John Adam Tabali

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco-Garza

FPC Chancel Choir

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Paul Klee
Joyful Mountain Landscape