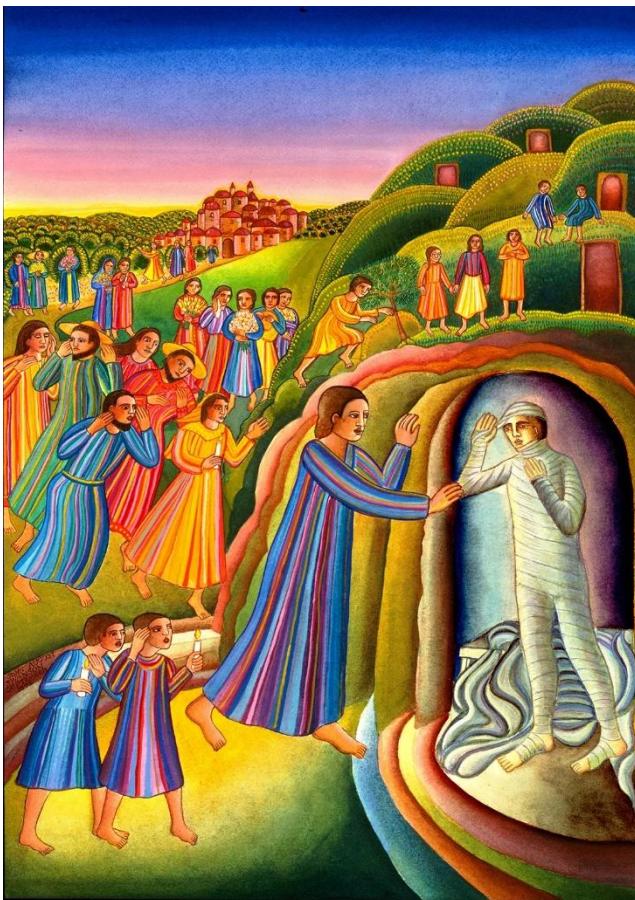


# Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen  
Sunday Worship – March 26, 2023  
Fifth Sunday in Lent



*Lord God, Great I AM,  
you are the resurrection and life.  
As we worship you this day  
show us who we are:  
bearers of good news,  
messengers of resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

John August Swanson  
*Take Away the Stone*

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## Opening Sentences

- Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will never die.”
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

Wait for the Lord.

**Our souls wait and hope in God's word.**

Hope in the Lord.

**With God there is steadfast love,  
and great power to redeem.**

Our souls wait for the Lord,  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
**more than those who watch for the morning.**

## Opening Hymn

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

GG #366

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,  
your Son came into the world  
to free us all from sin and death.

Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,  
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,  
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## Call to Confession

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Prayer of Confession

Holy One,  
we have set our minds on wrong things –  
**on selfish gain, not generous service;**  
**on pursuits that distract, not inspire;**  
**on tasks that diminish, rather than give, life.**

We long to set our minds on eternal things –  
**on your way of mercy and compassion;**  
**on paths that lead to justice and peace;**  
**on living as people of hope.**

Spirit of God, dwell in us,  
**Give us grace when we fall short,**  
**transform our hearts and renew our minds,**  
**and set us free to follow you faithfully.**  
*A moment of silent prayer.*

## Declaration of Forgiveness

According to God's steadfast love,  
according to God's abundant mercy,  
our prayers are heard and answered.

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

In My Life, v. 1

GG #468

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

## Passing the Peace of Christ

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



Callistus Catacombs; Rome; 3<sup>rd</sup> century  
*Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead*

### Prayer for Illumination

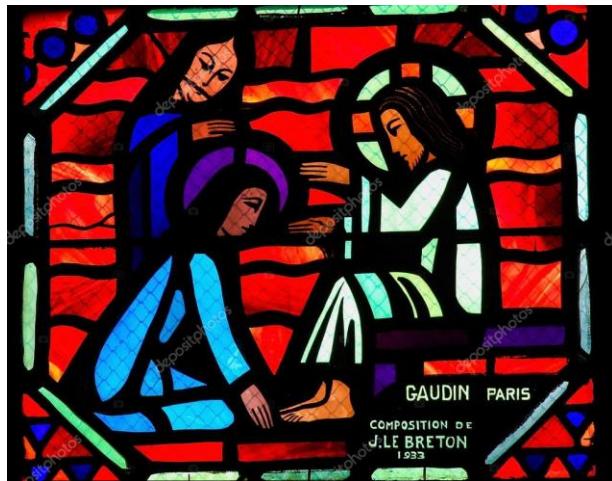
O Lord, we wait for you,  
and in your Word we trust.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
set our hearts and minds  
on the source of life and peace:  
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Time with the Younger Church

#### Anthem

#### Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45



J. Le Breton

*Mary Kneels Weeping Before Christ with Martha*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.<sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,<sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”<sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?”<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.<sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.”<sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”<sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”<sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,” <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” <sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

### Reflection Hymn

### Healer of Our Every Ill

GG #795

*Refrain: Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.*

You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother;

Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

### Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

God of all kindness,  
you gave your only Son,  
out of your great love for the world.  
Trusting in that kindness and that love,  
we bring before you our prayers.

We pray for the peace of the world.  
Move among us by your Spirit,  
break down barriers  
of fear, suspicion, and hatred.  
Heal the human family of its divisions  
and unite it in the bonds of justice and peace.

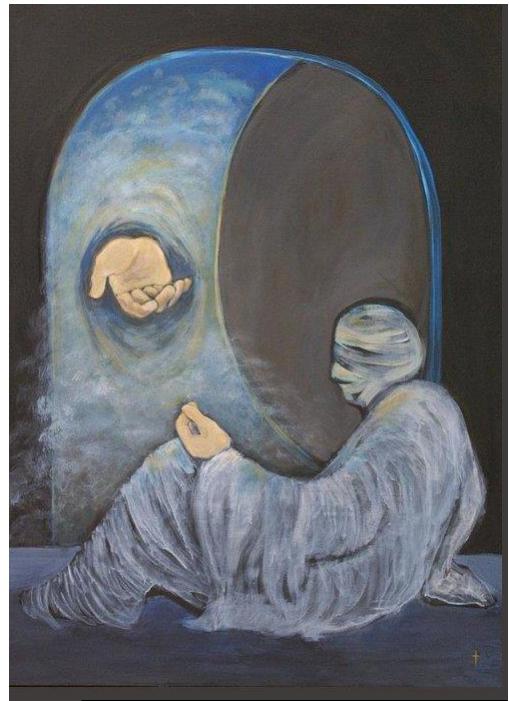
We pray for our country.  
Enrich our common life;  
strengthen the forces of truth and goodness;  
teach us to share prosperity,  
that those whose lives are impoverished  
may pass from need and despair  
to dignity and joy.

We pray for those who suffer.  
Surround them with your love,  
support them with your strength,  
console them with your comfort,  
and give them hope  
and courage beyond themselves.

We pray for our families,  
for those whom we love.  
Protect them at home;  
support them in times of difficulty and anxiety,  
that they may grow together  
in mutual love and understanding,  
and rest content in one another.

We pray for the Church.  
Keep us true to the gospel  
and responsive to the gifts and needs of all.  
Make known your saving power in Jesus Christ,  
by the witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Amen.

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



Ann Lukesh  
*Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead*

## Invitation to the Offering

Let us offer ourselves – time, talent, treasure – to the God who delivers us from death to life.

## Offertory

## Act of Dedication

In My Life, v. 4

GG #468

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

## Offertory Prayer

Holy God, giver of life,  
we thank you for raising us up  
and joining us together  
as one people, your people.  
Use us – time, talent, treasure --  
to proclaim the good news  
of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Hymn

# Go to the World!

GG #295

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.

Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.

Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.

Go seek God's presence in each time and space.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.

As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.

Alleluia Alleluia

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

## The Life of the Church

### Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response   Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me, *refrain*   GG #71

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.

### Postlude

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#### **Today's Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell	Margie Karst	Ann Rowland
Beverly Avila	Robert Garza	Ale Pacheco
		FPC Chancel Choir

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