

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
August 24, 2025



Barbara Schwarz, OP
Jesus and the Over Woman

Opening Sentences

- The LORD upholds those who are falling; God raises those who are bowed down.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Psalm 71

In you, O God, I take refuge.

Let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, deliver me and rescue me.

Incline your ear to me, and save me!

For you, O LORD, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD from my youth.

I have leaned upon you from my birth.

It was you who took me from my mother's womb.

Your praise is continually on my lips.

Hymn

O God, Who Gives Us Life

GG #53

O God who give us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Prayer of the Day

Come, dear Christ, into this house of worship
and into every longing heart.

Some who gather here need healing.

Touch us, and give us strength.

Many feel confused and dismayed by the news of the day.

Quiet our minds, and help us place our trust in you.

Many of us doubt ourselves and question our purpose.

Call us anew to be instruments of your grace
for a world that yearns to know your peace. Amen.

Call to Confession

Our God is compassionate and merciful,
knowing us with an intimacy we cannot comprehend.
There is nothing we have done,
or left undone,
that is not already known by God.
This gives us confidence
to come to God with our prayer.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have known us
since the beginning of time.
You know when we struggle to hear your voice,
and when we yearn to know your grace.
Speak to us with wisdom and love,
and protect us with mercy and grace.
Heal us and set us free,
that we may recognize your presence,
heed your call,
and celebrate your loving acceptance.**
A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Lord is our hope and our trust, our light and our salvation.
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

Raise a Song of Gladness

GG #155

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
By your word, give us wisdom,
by your Spirit, grant us healing, and set us free to serve you with love.
We ask all this through the One who heals in your name. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:10-17

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the LORD answered him and said, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?" ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

Sermon

Misunderstanding the Sabbath

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life ...
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all people to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*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

Set us free, Lord Jesus.

We come to you with heavy burdens
that keep us bent over in pain,
unable to find comfort and rest.
Hear the prayers of your people.

For those who are hungry ...
Teach us to share what we have,
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted.

For those who are sick ...
Heal them of their diseases,
and renew their strength.

For those who are afraid ...
Calm their trembling hearts,
and give them an unshakeable peace.

For those who are discouraged ...
Open their eyes to possibility,
surround them with community,
and return them to hope.

For those who are held captive ...
Grant liberty to the oppressed,
and lead their oppressors to repent.

Set us free, Lord Jesus.
Break the chains that have bound us.
Let us rise up to praise you
and rejoice in your wonderful work.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...



Invitation to the Offering

God calls us to do justice
for those who are vulnerable
and to maintain the rights
of people who the world deems unimportant.
We are invited to answer the call
through the offering of our lives –
our physical resources
and our spiritual gifts.
Let us join God's work in the world
with our tithes and offerings.

Glenna Goodacre
Vietnam Women's Memorial

Offertory

Act of Dedication

Take My Life; v. 4

GG #697

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Offertory Prayer

Lord of the Sabbath,
we rejoice in offering you these gifts,
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing
of your love in the world. Amen.

Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven, v. 1-3

GG #619

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven, v. 4

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers in all time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Caly Fernandez

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco-Garza

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC McAllen Contact Information: 104 S. 12th 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

Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net