

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church
McAllen, Texas
February 15, 2026



All images in these pages are from
James Turrell -- *The Light Inside*
Permanent exhibit; MFA, Houston

Opening Sentences

- This is the day the Lord has made. This is the day God invites us to love and to live.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

Happy are those whose footsteps follow the way of the Lord –

the path of justice and mercy

that draws us toward wholeness.

Happy are those whose hearts delight in the law of the Lord –

teachings that root us in love, sustain us in hope,

and nurture generous spirits within us.

Happy are our souls when we gather to worship the Living Lord –

the Fountainhead of Grace,

the Giver of Life.

Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn God is Calling Through the Whisper GG #410

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,

through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.

Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.

Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.

Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:

God is calling – and we hear! God is calling – and we hear!

Prayer of the Day

God of blessing,

you call us to be one with you

and your creation

in love, faithfulness, and truth.

Help us to carry out the vows we make:

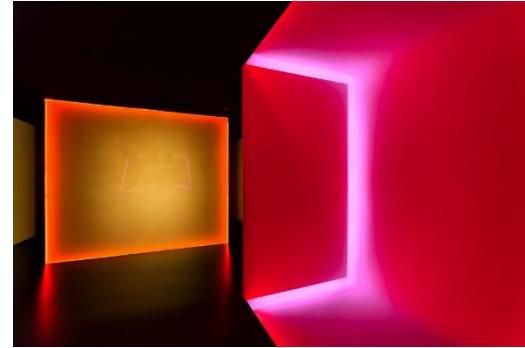
to adore you with our whole heart,

to live in mutual support of one another,

and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

Call to Confession

Our sins and failures can overwhelm us.
Yet God waits to forgive and heal.
Let us lay down our burdens
and open our hearts,
that we may receive God's grace
and the gift of new life.



Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods;
we have turned our hearts away from you.
Our worship of worldly success and devotion to consumerism
disorder our love of you and each other.
Forgive us, God,
and mend what is broken,
that we may be one with you. Amen.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Words of Assurance

Friends, God is always offering us life and abundance.
Hear and trust in the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Act of Praise Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart, v. 1 GG #688

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

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 *Whoever You Are*, by Mem Fox

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit,
as we hear your Word this day.
Fill us with your truth
that we may walk in your ways
to the glory of your realm. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster.¹⁶ For today I command you to love YHWH, your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and the customs. If you do, you will live and increase, and YHWH, your God, will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.¹⁷ But if your hearts stray and you do not listen to me, if you let yourself be drawn into the worship of other gods, and serve them,¹⁸ I tell you today, you will not survive. You will not live long in the land which you are now crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live,²⁰ by loving YHWH, your God, by obeying God's voice and by clinging to YHWH. For that will mean life for you, a long life in the land which God swore to give to your ancestors Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob.

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)**

Hymn Will You Come and Follow Me, v. 1 and 5 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?”

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.

Prayers of the People

Almighty God, who taught us to pray not only for ourselves
but for people everywhere,
hear us as we pray for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Inspire the whole church with your power, unity, and peace.

Grant that all who trust you may obey your word,
and live together in love.

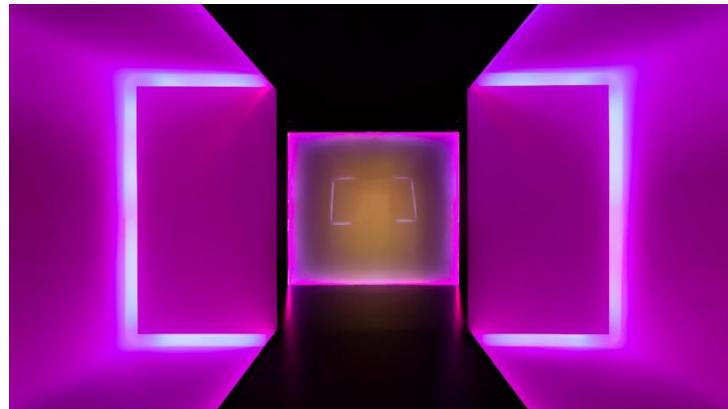
Lead all nations in the way of justice and goodwill.

Direct those who govern,
that they may rule fairly,
maintain order,
uphold those in need,
and defend oppressed people;
that this world may claim your rule and know true peace.

Awaken all people to the danger we have inflicted upon the earth.
Implant in each a reverence for all you have made
that we may preserve the delicate balance
of creation for all coming generations.

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel,
through word and sacrament and deeds of mercy,
that by their teaching and example
they may reveal your love for all people.

Comfort and relieve, O Lord,
all who are in trouble ...
sorrow ...
poverty ...
sickness ...
grief ...
especially those known to us,
whom we name before you
in silence ...



Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance,
working in them, by your grace,
wonders beyond all they may dream or hope.

Bring to our remembrance
all those who, having served you on earth,
now sing your praises eternally.

May their endurance give us courage
and their faithfulness give us hope;
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
who taught us to pray together, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

Trusting in what God is doing in this world,
let us offer our gifts to the work of God's kingdom.
Today, in addition to our regular tithes and offerings,
we are receiving financial support
for the church's Local Assistance ministry.

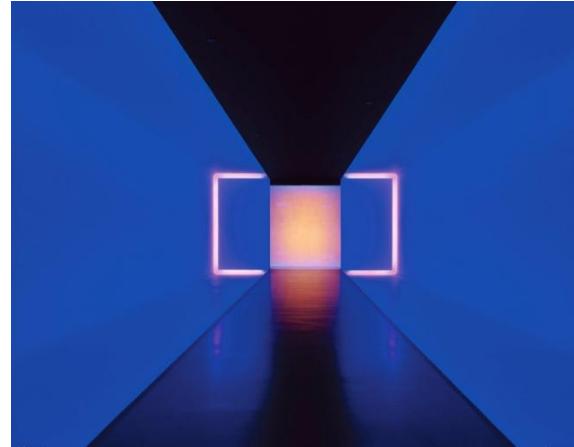
Offertory

Act of Dedication Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart, v. 5 GG #688

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

Offertory Prayer

God of abundant life,
may the gifts we offer here today
express our gratitude to you,
and help to bring your abundance
into the lives of all your children.
In Jesus' name. Amen.



Hymn

We Will Walk with God

GG #742

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

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GG #742

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We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Ann Williams

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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