

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Worship – November 19, 2023



Glen Strock
Parable of the Talents

Opening Sentences

- This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- It is time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Psalm 123

To you, O God of the heavens, we will lift our eyes.

Have mercy on us!

God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

Hear us when we call!

From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

We will magnify God's holy name!

Opening Hymn

Here in This Place

GG #401

Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of the Day

Ever-living God,
before the earth was formed
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
Break into our short span of life
and show us those things that are eternal,
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

As children of God, we come to God in our joys,
in our sorrows, in our fears, and in our guilt.
Knowing that God loves us and embraces us,
let us trust in God's mercy
as we bring our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

**God of abundance,
you have given us so many gifts.
You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge,
and yet we hide them under a bushel.
We hoard these gifts, instead of following you
and sharing with those in need.
We have been poor stewards of all you have given.
Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given,
that it might be returned in service to you.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God has destined us not for wrath,
but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died that all might live with him.
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

Great Are You, Lord

GG #614

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;
by your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord, you are faithful and true;
by your mercy you prove you are love.
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts this day,
that we may be illumined by your living Word
and walk together as children of light. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seeds; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

Reflection Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

GG #716

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, 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.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Time with the Younger Church

Ann Rowland

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

As children of a new creation,
we are called to pray without ceasing while we await the day of the Lord.

Lord hear our prayers:

For the wisdom to understand the times and seasons...

For the strength to keep watch through the hours of the night ...

For true peace and security and deliverance from destruction ...

For the well-being of our bodies and the sobriety of our spirits ...

For the gifts of faith, love, and the hope of salvation ...

God of peace, make us holy.
Keep us safe in body and soul
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

And now, let us pray together, using the prayer Jesus has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts;
let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty
with thanksgiving and praise.

Offertory

Act of Dedication For the Life That You Have Given GG #717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made know,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your ow:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Offertory Prayer

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks,
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We wait in hope for the coming of your realm
and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn Song of Hope / *Canto de Esperanza* GG #765

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Dios de la esperanza, danos go-zo y paz !

Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.

Dios de las justicia, mándanos tu luz,

luz y esperanza en la os-cu-ri-dad.

Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor.

Luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

The Life of the Church

- Prayer requests
- Fall Festival – November 20
- Hanging of Greens and Fellowship Lunch – November 26
- Advent resources will be available next Sunday
- Have Dana come up to speak about Stewardship Letter and Budget Priorities survey

Charge and Benediction

Encourage one another
and build each other up,
faithfully working together for the kingdom of God,
as we await the day of Christ's coming.

Congregational Response Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, v. 3 GG #526

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Caly Fernandez
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