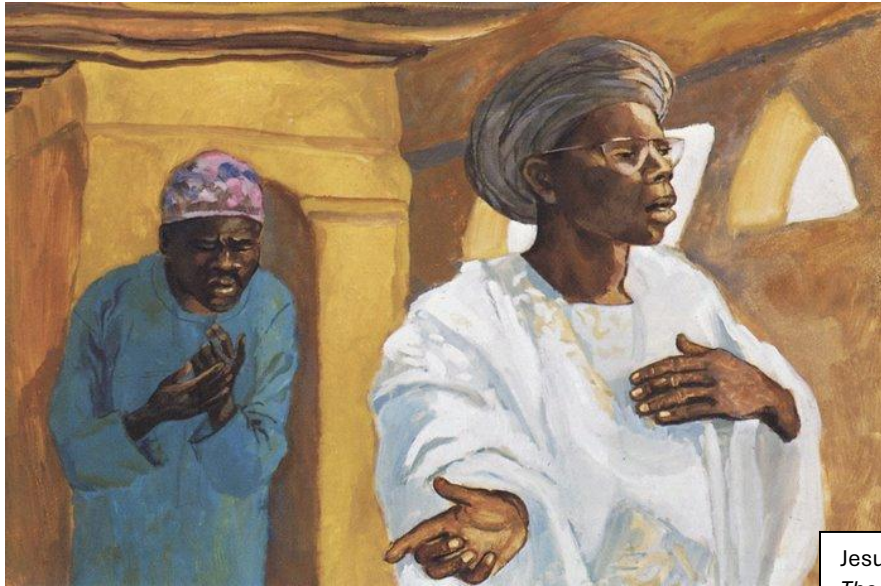


Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
October 26, 2025



Jesus MAFA
The Pharisee and the Publican

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

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;

**You are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.**

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

**You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.**

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 possibility and imagination,
as we gather this morning,
open our hearts to your purpose and possibility.
Pour out your Spirit on us
so that we might speak your truth,
dream what you hope,
and see what you envision;
in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Trusting in the tender mercy of the God who knows all our needs,
let us offer our Prayer of Confession.

<i>Prayer</i>

Prayer of Confession

**Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, O God,
to rule and direct us according to your will,
to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions,
to defend us from all error,
and lead us into all truth;
that we, being steadfast in faith,
may increase in love and in all good works.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Whether we are close or whether we are standing far off,
God's love in Jesus Christ seeks us out and gathers us in.
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

Make a Joyful Noise to God!, v. 1

GG #54

Make a joyful noise to God!
All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed,
unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name,
ages old, yet still the same.

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

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God,
that we might hear your word
so that your wisdom will draw us closer to you.
Through Christ, the Living Word we pray.
Amen.

Anthem



after Sir John Everett Millais
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit ...

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples 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.

Hymn

Change My Heart, O God (English and Spanish)

GG #695

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.

Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.

Tú el alfarero, yo el barro soy.

Sólo a tu imagen, quiero siempre ser.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

In prayer, we set our hearts in the direction of God's vision,
uniting and aligning our community
with God's wisdom and for God's purposes.

And so, we pray:

God who sees beyond our understanding,
whose purposes extend beyond our knowledge,
we lift up to you the circumstances and realities
that, while not visible, are real and present
in our lives and the lives of those around us.

For those whose suffering is not evident
and whose wounds lie below the surface ...

For those who labor with you and for you faithfully,
to little acknowledgment ...

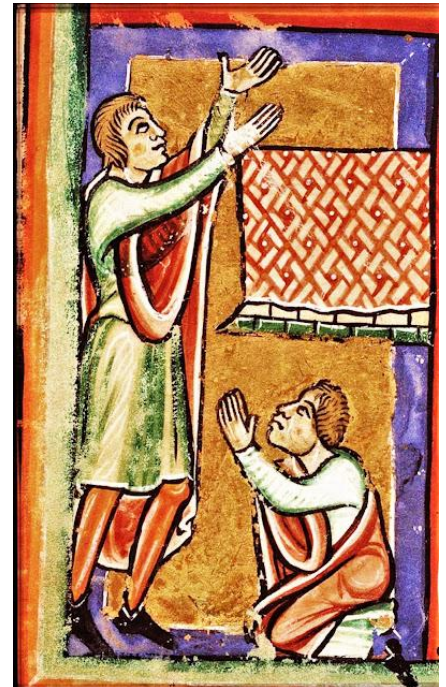
For those who seek to disrupt harmful patterns
for the sake of healthier ways of being ...

For those who struggle
to see your goodness at work in the world
and yet continue to put one foot in front of the other ...

For those who have internalized their oppression
and seek liberation ...

For those who feel far from you
and yearn for your presence ...

We lift up these beloved ones
and all who struggle with internal battles,
entrusting their health, their wholeness,
and their hearts to your healing activity.
Help us to be the kind of community
that will strengthen those
who feel overcome by weakness;
equip and direct us to promote restoration for all.



French Picture Bible; c. 1190-1200
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

We pray this in the name of the one
who restores our hope and heals our wounds.
Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray together, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

With humility for all that God has given us,
let us gratefully give for the world of the church
and the healing of this world.

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 known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
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

Holy and merciful God,
you know the joy that is in us
when we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions
for the work you set before us.
Use these gifts to heal and teach, comfort and challenge,
that all the world might give you praise. Amen.

Hymn Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing, v. 1-2 GG #546

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 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.

Postlude

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

Nadine Force

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco-Garza

FPC Chancel Choir

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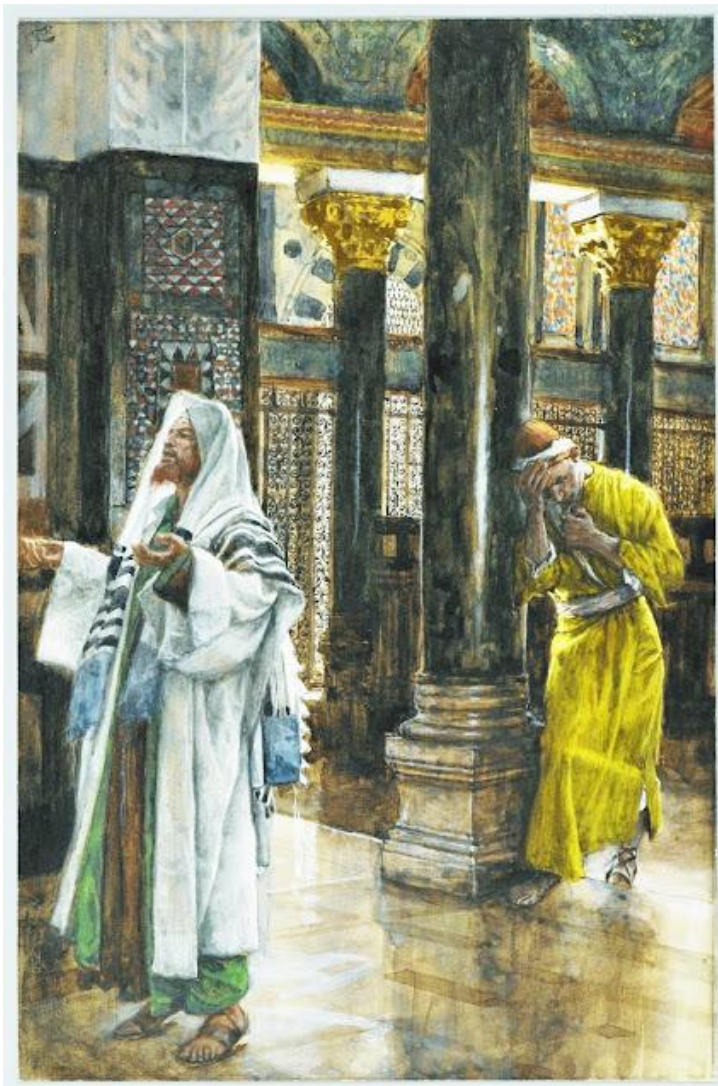
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James Tissot

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector