Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice



Jorge Cocco
Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

First Presbyterian Church
McAllen, Texas
November 8, 2026

Opening Sentences

- Joshua stood before the people of Israel and said to them: "Choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
- 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.
Together, we choose to serve God,
which means:
We choose love;
we choose hope;
we choose peace;
we choose kindness;
we choose welcome;
we choose justice;
we choose to serve God.
Let us worship together.

Hymn Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples GG #757

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
you are our hope and our salvation,
for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death.
In following him, we are raised to new life.
Increase in us our faith
and keep us watchful,
that we may welcome Christ with joy
when he comes to set the whole world free. Amen.

Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us offer our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

When our courage wears thin, O God,
strengthen our resolve to choose you each day.
Steel us for long watches of the night –
for we long to be found ready
when you appear in your glory.
Fill our lamps with your grace,
that we might share your light with our children
and with generations that follow. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, rejoice and be glad,
for God is mighty to save.
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 Take My Life, v. 1 and 3 GG #697

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Time with the Younger Church

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God,
let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus MAFA
The Ten Young Women



Anthem



Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ [7] Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ [9] But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. [11] Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Sermon

Hymn Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers GG #362

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption, and ever be with thee!

Installation of Ruling Elder

Invite Sher to come forward.
Recognize Nancy as Clerk of Session

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.
This is our common calling,
to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.
Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service as deacons, ruling elders,
and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us.
Through ordination, God provides
for acts of care and compassion in the world,
for the ordering and governance of the church,
and for the preaching of the word and celebration of the sacraments.

Clerk of Session:

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church,
the session of First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
now installs to active service Sher Wilkes,
who has been previously ordained as a ruling elder.

Profession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith together.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from then he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Constitutional Questions

Sher, in baptism, you were claimed
by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ,
and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to share Christ's mission in the world.
Now you are called by God through the voice of the church
for new service and ministry in Jesus' name.
In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior,
acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church,
and through him believe in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be,
by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ
in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt
the essential tenets of the Reformed faith
as expressed in the confessions of our church
as authentic and reliable expositions
of what Scripture leads us to believe and do,
and will you be instructed and led by those confessions
as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ,
under the authority of Scripture,
and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity,
and will you abide by its discipline?
Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry,
working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ,
love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity,
and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful ruling elder,
watching over the people,
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
Will you share in government and discipline,
serving in councils of the church,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**



Margaret Jaszowska
photo on *Unsplash*

Clerk of Session:

Do we, the members of the church,
accept Sher as a ruling elder,
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation,
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her,
to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Installation

Sher faces the congregation. Invite all who have been ordained to come forward and lay hands on those being ordained/installed.

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God,
with joy we give you thanks and praise.
Throughout the ages and in every place
you have chosen servants from among your people
to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith
who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone –
for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace;
for prophets and apostles
who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth;
for leaders and teachers in every age
who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.
Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth,
revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your servant Sher,
as she continues in the ministry to which you have called her.
Help her to rely on the gifts of your Spirit
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

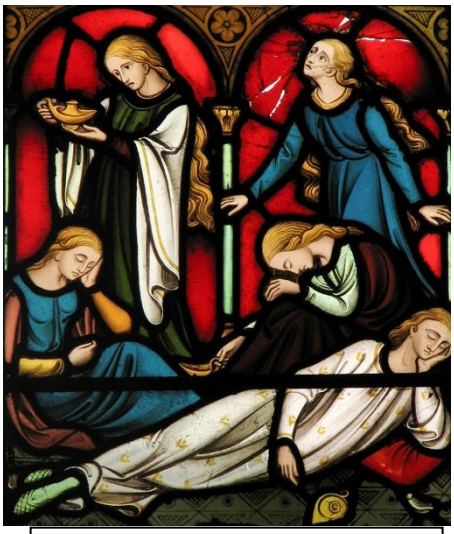
Give her your servants a spirit of truthfulness
that she may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit, empower her to build up the church,
to strengthen the common life of your people,
and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry,
give to all your servants gladness and strength,
discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage,
and an abiding sense of your presence.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth
upon the whole church,
that we may be for you a holy people
baptized to serve you in the world.
Sustain your church in ministry.
Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ,
strengthen our service to the outcast,
and increase our love for one another.

Show us the transforming power of your grace
in our life together,
that we may be effective servants of the gospel,
offering a compelling witness in the world
to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



St. Giles Church, Oxford, UK
Bridesmaids Sleeping

<u>Declaration of Installation</u>

Sher, you are a ruling elder,
ordained to ministries of service and governance
in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.

Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life
will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

The newly installed is welcomed by her colleagues.

<u>Invitation to the Offering</u>

As the offering is received this day,
the choice is ours.
May our offerings reflect our hopes, not our fears.
May we choose abundance over scarcity.
May the story we tell of our lives
reflect the grace and mercy of God's provision
all along the way.

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

Gracious God, receive our gifts,
tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings,
signs of trust in your coming reign
of justice, peace and love.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who taught us to pray together saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Hymn Take Us As We Are, O God, v. 1, 2, 4 GG #312

Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own.
As once you chose to tell your love in human flesh and bone,
so let our lives be used to make your saving purpose known.

Bless us for your service, Lord; no power we devise
will ever give us strength enough to make us truly wise,
yet by your promise we can know the peace your grace supplies.

Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast,
that we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least,
until at length you call us all to your unending feast.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Take My Life, v. 6

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee; ever, only, all for thee.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell	Kelly Leonard		John Adam Tabali
Beverly Avila	Robert Garza	Ale Pacheco-Garza	FPC Chancel Choir

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