

# Third Sunday of Lent Worship

March 15, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen

*Tell Me Something GOOD:*

*The Good News is ... together, the impossible is possible.*



Lauren Wright Pittman  
*Far More Abundantly*

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## Opening Sentences

- This Lent, we are grounding ourselves in the good news that God's love invites us, Christ's grace holds us, and the Spirit's power leads us.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

If you need good news, settle into this space.

**We have good news to share.**

If you need a word of hope, then trust us when we say,

**there is hope enough to go around.**

If you need a glimmer of joy, then you're in luck!

**We have resilient joy abounding.**

If you need to feel God's presence,

**then know that this is God's house.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.**

**Let us worship our with-us God.**

## Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

GG #611

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.

Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.

Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

## Prayer of the Day

Life-changing God,

you have touched us and transformed us

to reach out to all who hunger for

what only you can give.

Keep our feet in your paths

and bless us to multiply those blessings to others,

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

## Call to Confession

Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we might play a part in improving the situation.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession, which reminds us that we can make a difference. Please join me in prayer.

## Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, with you the impossible is possible.**

**5,000 can be fed.**

**The blind can see.**

**The hopeless can find hope.**

**With you, the impossible is possible,  
but we are quick to forget that.**

**We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves  
that nothing can be done.**

**We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.**

**We forget that you are always with us.**

**Forgive our small-minded ways.**

**Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.**

**But even more, forgive us when we refuse  
to be a part of the change you are bringing.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them.

Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and for me,  
so hear and believe this good news:

**Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.**

**We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.**

**What good, good news! Thanks be to God.**

Act of Praise      Change My Heart, O God / *Cámbiame, Señor*      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.*  
*Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.*  
*Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.*

Passing the Peace

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

Holy God,  
open up space in our hearts,  
in our spirits, in our minds,  
to feel your presence among us  
as we hear your Word. Amen.

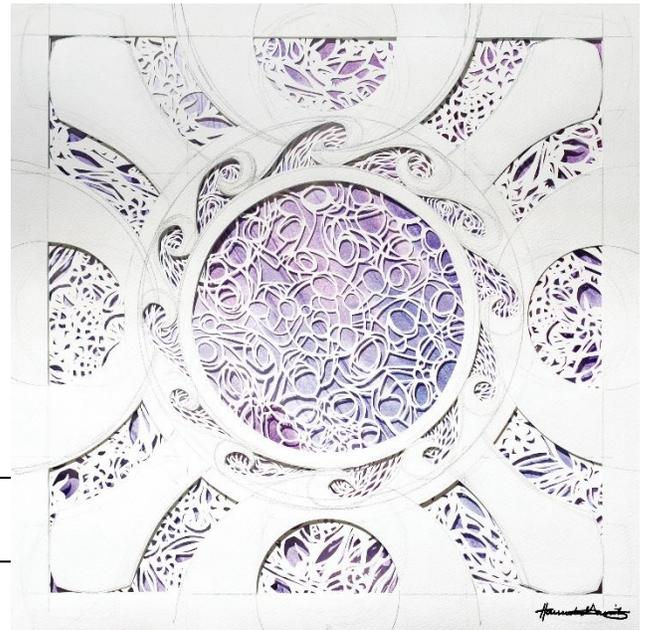
Anthem

Hannah Garrity  
*Scarce Abundance*

Scripture Readings

Mark 6:32-44: **Feeding the 5,000**

<sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to



eat.”<sup>37</sup> But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”<sup>39</sup> Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass.<sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.<sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all.<sup>42</sup> And all ate and were filled,<sup>43</sup> and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.<sup>44</sup> Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

### Ephesians 3:20-21: **God accomplishes abundantly**

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

### Sermon

### Hymn

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

GG #432

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:  
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Calling and equipping God,  
many years ago,  
on a hillside in Galilee,  
you looked at your disciples and said,  
"You give them something to eat."  
We read these ancient words again  
and are struck with the realization  
that from the very beginning, you have seen good in us.  
From the very beginning, you have known that we are capable of great love.  
From the very beginning, you have believed that we can make a difference.

Calling God,  
help us to see that truth in ourselves.  
Help us to see your fingerprints in our lives.  
Help us see the ways you have equipped us to serve.  
Help us to see the ways that we are capable,  
instead of only seeing the ways we stumble and get in our own way.

God, we long to see ourselves as you do  
because we know that like that day in Galilee,  
there is still work to do.  
This world is full of people who are hungry.  
We are hungry for justice, hungry for companionship,  
hungry for reasons to hope.  
This world is full of people who need healing.  
We need healing for our bodies, healing for our minds,  
healing for broken relationship.

Like that day on the Galilean hillside,  
there is surely enough to go around.  
So call us again, loving God.  
Say our names.  
Hand us the baskets of bread and fish.  
Tell us it's our turn.  
Help us to see ourselves the way you see us,  
for we know that together, the impossible is possible.

Until your promised day when all are fed, and all are healed;  
the day when hunger, hurt, and sorrow are no more,  
we will continue to pray.

In hope, we will weave our voices together  
to pray the words your Son taught us, saying ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**



Invitation to the Offering

In the faithful hands of Christ,  
our little is multiplied to feed many.  
Come now; let us offer our loaves and fishes  
to the work of God's love in this world.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Bread of Life from Heaven, v. 3 (no refrain) GG #497

Love as the One who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the One who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more.

Offertory Prayer

We thank you, God, that you have empowered us to participate  
in the miraculous multiplying ministry of your Son.  
We offer back to you these gifts,  
which you provided to us out of your abundance,  
that your miracle ministry may multiply  
to satisfy the hungry of this world today;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

