

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice



Love one another.

First Presbyterian Church
McAllen, Texas

May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Graduate Recognition

Welcome and Opening Sentences

- This is a new day, full of promise and new life. Praise God for this glorious gift!
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Praise the Lord, all the earth!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise the Lord in the heights.

Praise the name of the Lord,
and the Lord's glory shall be praised,

for people near and people far,

for people present and people to come,

for the young and for those wise with age.

Come, let us praise the Lord;

come, let us worship God.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome, all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome, all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome, all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Prayer of the Day

Spirit of life, breathe new life within us.
Blow through our worship
with your enlivening presence,
and rise up in us with new hope.
Dwell in our community, in our church,
and in our hearts this day,
that your love may bind us together
and send us forth to serve. Amen.

Call to Confession

We fall short of who God created and calls us to be,
but we are never forsaken.
Because we are loved,
we know that God will answer every prayer
with mercy and grace.
Let us admit our need before God.

Prayer of Confession

**O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.
Make us love what you command
and desire what you promise,
that, amid all the changes of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found.
Guide us to work toward
a new heaven here on earth.
Lead us to reconciliation
and a vision for your beloved community,
as we share your love with your people everywhere.**

Silent Confession

Words of Forgiveness

In the love of the Risen Christ,
we are resurrected with forgiveness and compassion;
we are new creatures in a love that never ends.
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

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!, v. 1

GG #248

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

The Life of the Church



Recognition of Graduates

Creative and Creating God,

We thank you for:

Evelyn, Haylee, Connor, Eduardo, Isabella, Sophia,
Paulina, Marcos, and Sebastian.

Your beloved creations.

We thank you for their accomplishments.

We celebrate with them at this time of graduation.

God the Spirit, guide, and guardian,

We pray that they will recognize your guidance
at the next stages of their journeys.

May your loving protection surround them each step they take.

God our Christ, Word made flesh,

May they seek to live according to your example:

Lives of justice; lives of peace; lives of joy. Amen.



Prayer for Illumination

God of power and grace,

fill us with the wisdom of your Word

and the understanding of your Spirit

so that we may be your church:

a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

When Judas had gone out, Jesus began to speak.

“Now the son of man is glorified!” he said. “Now God is glorified in him! ³²

And if God is glorified in him, God will glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Children, I’m only with you a little longer. You will look for me, and, as I said to the Judaeans that where I was going they couldn’t come, so I’m saying the same to you now.

³⁴ I’m giving you a new commandment, and it’s this: love one another! Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ This is how everybody will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for each other.”

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

Sermon

*Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away.

Refrain

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Refrain

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you.

Refrain

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

In this season of Easter rejoicing,
let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings
for the church and the world.

Holy God, we pray for the well-being of your creation,
that we may promote its ability
to offer praise to you through spacious skies,
bountiful seas, verdant lands,
and precious creatures great and small.

We pray for the life of the church,
that our generous witness may broaden your table
as all find a place to live and grow in love.

We pray for the welfare of your world,
that all leaders and people young and old
will strive to live together in harmony
while serving the common good.

We pray for all who suffer any violence, pain, or grief,
that they will know the comfort of your presence
as you wipe every tear from their eyes.



We pray for all who have died,
that you will bring them into the fullness of your joy,
where mourning and pain will be no more.

We thank you for the love made known to us in Jesus Christ
through this community,
for the ways our lives are touched and enriched by one another;
for the ways our strengths and gifts and needs work together
as we strive to be the Body of Christ in this time and place.
For this and all other blessings we give you thanks and praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

Let us live out Jesus' new commandment
that we love one another
by gladly offering to God
the gifts of our labor, life, and love.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks, v. 4 and refrain GG #240

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks
for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us
in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.
Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.
May they be a testament to your love for us
as we share them in love for you;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn We Are One in the Spirit

GG #300

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

Refrain

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

Refrain

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Refrain

Charge and Benediction

Go gladly into the world.
Be filled with the love of God.
Dance to the song of the Spirit.
Befriend the Christ in each new day.

Congregational Response We Are One in the Spirit, *refrain*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila Robert Garza Ale Pacheco

Lita Simpson
FPC Chancel Choir

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2025 Graduates:

McAllen High: Evelyn Garfield
Haylee King

Memorial High: Connor McLeod

Sharyland High: Eduardo Mendoza
Isabella Mendoza
Sophia Mendoza

George Washington University:

Marcos Turk (Bachelor's in International Affairs)

Texas State University:

Sebastian Turk (Bachelor's in Agricultural Business Management)

UTRGV:

Paulina Longoria (Master of Arts in English)