

Worship with Communion

September 6, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen



Augusta Savage
Lift Every Voice and Sing (The Harp)

Opening Sentences

- We gather to proclaim the promises; to retell the stories; to remember who we are as people of God.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Romans 13

Have you heard the good news?

Christ calls us to be people of light.

Have you felt the good news?

Christ offers us God's love and grace.

Have you lived the good news?

Christ lives in us when we gather in his name.

Come! Let us worship the Lord.

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness,

shine on my path,

and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Holy God,

you call us to righteousness and light.

Teach us the undivided law of love,

that we may love your children even as you do,

love you with all our will and strength,

and find our freedom in this blessed service,

taught to us in word and deed

by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us

through Jesus Christ

who came into the world

to save us all from the burden of sin.

Trusting in the promise of grace,

let us offer our Prayer of Confession.

Josefina de Vasconcellos
Reconciliation



Prayer of Confession

**Beautiful Savior,
you have made your law clear:
Love. Love one another.
Owe one another nothing but love.
Do no wrong to a neighbor.
But we have not mastered what it is to love.
We have fallen short,
causing harm to others
through careless action
and thoughtless lack of action.
Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully,
more perfectly, as generously as you love,
following your law and fulfilling your will.**

Assurance of Pardon

Christ does not judge us harshly,
but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.
**We will not take this forgiveness for granted,
but will let it transform how we live and love.**

Act of Praise Praise God for This Holy Ground, v. 3

GG #405

Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

Passing the Peace

Time with the Younger Church

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit,
as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of 1967

**The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church’s mission.
His human life involves the church
in the common life of all people. ...
In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God’s renewal of human life in society
and of God’s victory over all wrong.**

Hymn

We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name

GG #510

We gather here in Jesus’ name;
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here; we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:
come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come share the Lord.
We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Invitation to the Offering

In the household of the Lord
we share the gifts we have received,
that all may know God's abundant grace.
With generosity and joy,
let us bring our offerings to the Lord.

This morning we are also receiving donations to the *Power of Hope* fund
which provides financial assistance to members of this faith community.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Praise God for This Holy Ground, v. 2 GG #405

Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul, and mind.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

Prayer of Dedication

Merciful and gracious God,
you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness.
With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you.
Bless these gifts and bless our lives
that we may share your mercy and grace
with the world you dearly love. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table



Timothy R. Botts
Matthew 18:19-20

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of the resurrection, we thank you for joy.

In our world of darkness and gloom,
you have shined the light of your love.

The colors of the world,
the creatures of the earth,
and the majesty of the universe
witness to the joy which is your work.

We praise you for Jesus, the joy of our heart.

God of every new morning, we thank you for hope.

In our world of uncertainty,
you have brought us the promise of new beginnings.

The words of scripture, the cycles of nature,
the renewal of creation which goes on around us
all testify to the hope which you have planted in all things.

We praise you for Jesus, our judge and our hope.

God of the law, we thank you for morality.

In our world of conflicting values and opinions,
you have laid out for us the right way to live.

The law and the commandments,
the examples of good women and men,
and the wisdom of those around us
have shown us the better way.

We praise you for Jesus, who completes the law and the prophets.

God of the covenant, we thank you for faith.

In our world of chaos and confusion,
you have given us a foundation upon which to build.

Through prayer, meditation, and service
you cause us to draw closer to you and to each other.

**We praise you for Jesus, through whom you make
an everlasting promise of love.**

God of all things seen and unseen, we thank you for spiritual gifts.
In our world of isolation and fear,
you have shown us the ties which bind us to you and each other.
Through the caring smile, the kind word, the anonymous gift,
you have blessed us and allowed us to be a blessing.

We thank you for Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of field and vine,
that through them we might taste
the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
For we ask this of you, gracious God,
through Jesus Christ and in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Sharing Bread and Cup

The Sacrament is Carried Beyond the Sanctuary

We send you out with this bread and cup
to share the feast of the risen Lord.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.**

John August Swanson
Celebration

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, gracious God,
that you have refreshed us
at your table.
Send us forth from this place
as your people,
filled with the Holy Spirit,
speaking your good news,
and serving in Christ's name.
Amen.



Hymn

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GG #542

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Praise God for This Holy Ground, v. 5

GG #405

Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

Postlude

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila

Sher Wilkes, Liturgist
Robert Garza

Nursery Volunteer
Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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