

# Worship – Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen



Howard Finster  
*In My Father's House are Many Mansions*

## Opening Sentences

- We come together as a church; not a building of wood and stone, but a spiritual house.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

**We long for abiding peace  
and friendship that renews our souls.**

Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

**We seek wisdom that endures and guidance for our journey.**

Jesus says, “Where I am, there you may be also.”

**We come to encounter Christ.**

Let us worship God together.

Hymn

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

GG #327

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

God, the great architect,

designing a world

where no one is left out:

You established Jesus

as the cornerstone

for a temple

where the Holy Spirit roams freely,

going forth to all people.

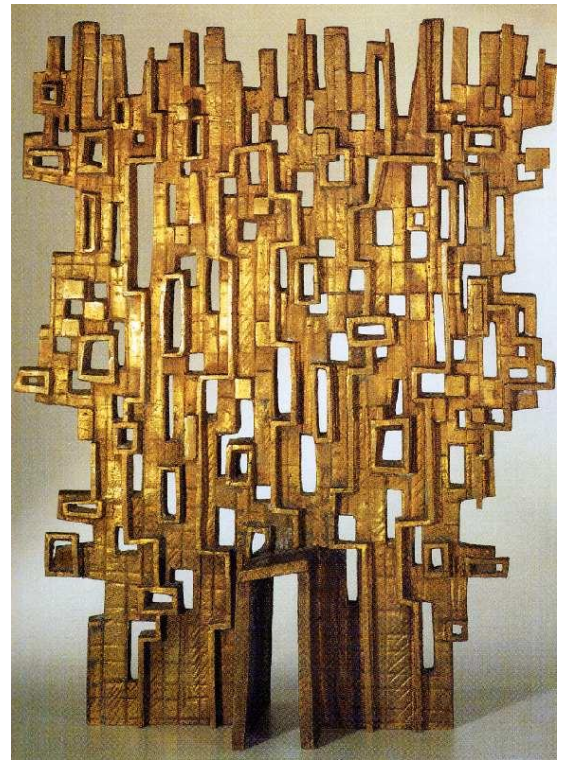
Redesign our churches and nations

to imitate your heavenly temple,

where there is no center and no margin.

Begin by redesigning our hearts

as we worship you this day. Amen.



Werner Hilbern

*In My Father's House are Many Mansions*

Call to Confession

Confident in the promise of grace,

let us offer to God our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Mighty God, we want to be brave,  
but it's tempting to be small and afraid.  
Lift us up when we fall down.  
Protect us from our own doubts and fears.  
Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace,  
that we might find the courage and strength  
to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous.  
Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household,  
your family and your people of justice, love, and mercy.  
In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, we are God's people.  
Hear and trust in the good news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Act of Praise                      Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks, v. 4                      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*

Passing the Peace

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

Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

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 14:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

[Jesus said] “Don’t let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith in me as well.

<sup>2</sup> In God’s house there are many dwelling places;

otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup> I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me,

that where I am, there you may be as well.

<sup>4</sup> You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas replied, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him,

I myself am the Way – I am Truth, and I am Life.

No one comes to Abba God but through me.

<sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know Abba God also.

From this point on, you know Abba God and you have seen God.

<sup>8</sup> “Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don’t know me?”

Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.

How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’?

<sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me?

The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, or else believe because of the works I do.

<sup>12</sup> The truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do – and greater works besides.

Why? Because I go to Abba God,

<sup>13</sup> and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me.

<sup>14</sup> Anything you ask in my name, I will do.

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

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life and in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

*(Source: A New Creed; United Church of Canada)*

### Hymn

#### Let Us Build a House

GG #301

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 love is found in water, wine, and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's grace;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
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 his house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

### Invitation to the Offering

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's  
work in the world.

This morning, in addition to our regular tithes and offerings, we are  
receiving gifts to the Power of Hope fund, which provides assistance to  
members of this faith community.

### Offertory

Act of Dedication            Holy, Holy, Holy / *Santo, Santo Santo*            GG #595

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

*Santo, santo, santo. Mi corazón te adora!*  
*Mi corazón re sabe decir: Santo eres, Señor!*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God,  
receive the gifts we bring  
in gratitude  
for your astounding goodness.  
Make our lives to be  
an acceptable offering  
in union with our risen Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you forever.  
Amen.



Photo by Andrew Shelley

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

### Invitation to the Table

### 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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

You are a rock of refuge and a strong fortress for us.

In times of trouble and seasons of shame you deliver us,  
for you are our redeemer, O Lord, our faithful God.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song  
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Christ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

He goes ahead of us, to make a place for us in your house.

We believe in you and we trust in him to lead us home.

Remembering your goodness and grace,  
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude  
as we share this joyful feast.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;  
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Build us up, like living stones, into a spiritual house,  
and let us be your chosen people, your royal priesthood,  
proclaiming your mighty and marvelous work.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory,  
now and forever.

**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.**

### Prayer after Communion

Thank you, O God, for giving us communion  
with our risen and glorious Lord.

Now send us out to be a sign  
of the new life that has come into the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Hymn      Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

GG #538

*Refrain: Hallelujah! We sing your praises;  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises;  
all our hearts are filled with gladness. (repeat)*

Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread.

I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hunger.

*Refrain (2x)*

Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.

*Refrain (2x)*

### Charge and Benediction

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Postlude



Living Amen  
*In My Father's House There are Many Mansions*

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**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell Dana Friedman  
Beverly Avila Robert Garza Ale Pacheco FPC Chancel Choir

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