

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen

September 13, 2026

A Season for Peace

Installation of Ruling Elders



Opening Sentences

- This is the day the Lord has made.
- Let us rejoice and be glad in it as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

O come, let us sing to the Lord

and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**We come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**

Let us worship together.

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skilled and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, bless your people.
Give us your peace, your help, and your love,
for we are the sheep of your pasture.
Let us be united in your peace –
one in the Body, one in the Spirit,
and one in the hope of our calling,
all through the gift of your endless grace.

Amen.

(prayer based on the 2nd century liturgy of St. Mark)

Call to Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners,
but as beloved children.
With the confidence of children of God,
let us offer our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

O for a World, v. 1

GG #372

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

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

Send us your Holy Spirit, O God,
that these words might speak to us as your word,
and our lives bear witness to the good news
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Anthem

A Reading from the Epistles

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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

Sermon

O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Thanksgiving for Faithful Service

Invite Bernard to come to the Chancel. Note that Dana Friedman has completed one term and is beginning another.

We come now to a time of recognition for Ruling Elder Bernard Tabali, who has concluded his term on the Session of this congregation. We give thanks that Bernard has been generous in sharing his gifts of wisdom and experience with colleagues on the session, the congregation and the community. Please join me in expressing our gratitude using the liturgy printed in the bulletin.

Bernard was clothed with Christ in baptism and called by God through the voice of the church to give particular service as a Ruling Elder for this congregation.

**We remember with joy
our common calling to serve Christ
and celebrate God's call to all who minister among us.**

Let us pray:

Eternal God, look mercifully upon this church,
and upon your servant Bernard,
whose ministry we recognize today.

We praise you for joys and accomplishments
and for your grace which has nurtured and sustained us.

Bind us ever closer to one another
and draw us nearer to our Lord Jesus Christ,
that we may all continue to serve in this community
with patience and love, with wisdom and joy,
until we come at last with all the saints
to the place you have prepared;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Present Bernard with a token of appreciation.
Invite Dana, Kelly, and Miranda to come forward.
Recognize Nancy as Clerk of Session*

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

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.

Reiki
Hands of Grace, Hands of Light



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 ordains Miranda Prater to ministry as a Ruling Elder
and installs her to active service in this congregation.
The Session also installs to active service
those who have been previously ordained as ruling elders:
Dana Friedman and Kelly Leonard.

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

Constitutional Questions

Dana, Kelly, and Miranda: 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.**

Clerk of Session:

Do we, the members of the church,
accept Dana, Kelly, and Miranda as ruling elders,
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 them, to encourage them,
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Installation

*Dana, Kelly, and Miranda face 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 servants Dana, Kelly, and Miranda,
as they continue in the ministry to which you have called them.
Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give each of these your servants a spirit of truthfulness
that they 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 them 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.



Melani Pyke
Together in Prayer

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.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Dana, Kelly, and Miranda, you are ruling elders,
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 are welcomed by their colleagues.

Invitation to the Offering

God is unfailing in blessing and love.
With thankful hearts, let us return to God
a portion of what God has given us.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

O for a World, v. 2

GG #372

O for a world where good are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

Offertory Prayer

O God, we thank you for these gifts.
Multiply them and use them in this world
to enable the work of love among your children,
to bring the righteousness and peace of your kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray together, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Hymn

Go in Grace and Make Disciples

GG #296

Go in grace and make disciples. Baptize in God's holy name.
Tell of death and resurrection; Easter's victory now proclaim.
Christ's commission sends us forth to the nations of the earth.
Go in grace and make disciples, midwives for the world's rebirth.

Go and follow Christ's example, not to vanquish, but to heal.
Mend the wounds of sin's divisions. Servant love to all reveal.
Roles and ranks shall be reversed; justice flow for all who thirst.
Go and follow Christ's example. Forge a world of last made first.

Go in Pentecostal spirit, many tongues and many gifts.
Feed the hearts of hungry people. Spread the gospel that uplifts.
Till the day of Christ's return, as disciples, teach and learn.
Go in Pentecostal spirit: let God's flame of witness burn.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

O for a World, v. 5

GG #372

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Dana Friedman

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco-Garza

FPC Chancel Choir

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