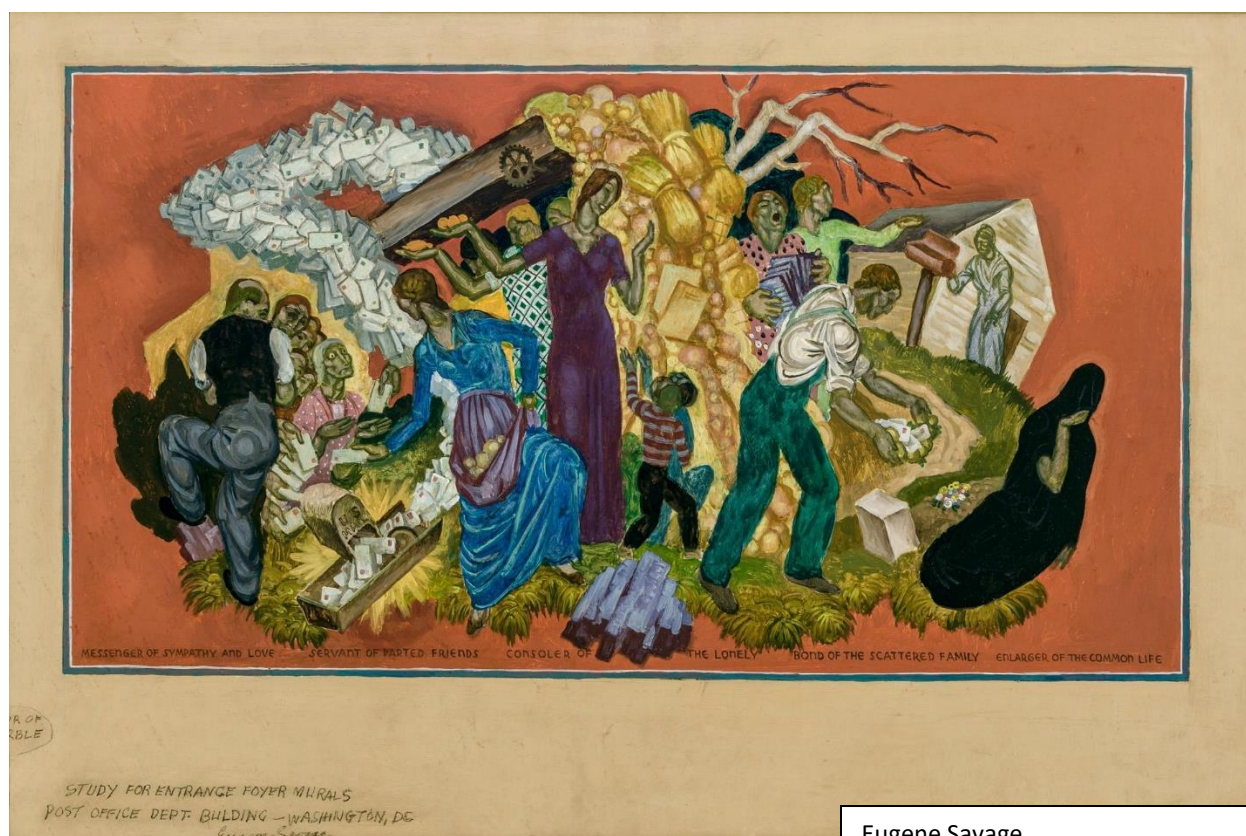


Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Communion Worship Service
Sunday, May 5, 2024



Eugene Savage
Messenger of Sympathy and Love

Opening Sentences

- We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord – one in love and forgiveness, one in hope and expectation, one in justice and mercy, one in grace and peace. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

from Psalm 98

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

Sing to our God a new song.

God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

GG #619

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers in all time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,
make our hearts bold
with love for one another.
Pour out your Spirit upon all people,
that we may live your justice
and sing your praise
in what we do and in who we are. Amen.



The heart images in these pages are from *Hearts in San Francisco*, an annual fundraiser for San Francisco General Hospital which began in 2004. Over 500 artists have participated and over \$38 million has been raised.

Call to Confession

We are called to follow Christ
by obeying his one commandment:
that we love one another as he has loved us.
Let us confess together how we have fallen short of such love.



Prayer of Confession

Source of love, you call us to love one another as Christ has loved us, but that can be a difficult thing.

You promise us joy if we give ourselves to love, yet we too often cling to hurts that rob us of the offered gift.

You invite us to sing a new song that can set our hearts free from the chains that bind us, yet we cleave to familiar paths and old, familiar ways.

Heal us, O God.

**Pour out your Spirit upon us once more,
that our lips may sing your praise
and our hearts may leap with joy.**

Help us live as children of your love.

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends.

Therefore, we can 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 Thousand Tongues to Sing, v. 1 (English and Spanish) GG #610

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace!

*Mil voces para celebrar
a mi Libertador,
las glorias de su majestad,
los triunfos de su amor.*



Passing the Peace of Christ

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



Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
as we listen this day to your Word,
send your Holy Spirit
to open our minds and hearts
that we may understand your word to us
and live it out in the world
as a sign of new life for all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17; First Nations Version

[Jesus said] “In the same way the Father loves me, I have loved you. Never stop walking this road of love. ¹⁰ By doing what the Father has told me, I have remained in his love. ¹¹ As you walk in my ways, my love will remain in you. I am saying this so your hearts will be filled with the same joy I have.

¹² “To walk the road with me, you must love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater way to show love to friends than to die in their place. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you walk in my ways and do what I say. ¹⁵ I no longer see you as my servants but as friends. Masters do not share their hearts and plans with their servants, but I have shown you everything I have heard from the Father.

¹⁶ “You may think you chose me, but I am the one who chose you. You are my new garden where I will grow a great harvest of my love – the fruit that remains. When you bear this fruit, you represent who I am – my name. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask for. ¹⁷ I am telling you this so you will walk the road of love with each other.”

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon



Affirmation of Faith

adapted from the Confession of 1967

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know
that God loves and accepts them
not because of what they have done,
but because of who they are in their deepest selves –
beloved children of God.
They therefore can accept themselves
and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground
on which to stand, except God's grace. (9.22)**



Hymn

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

GG #503

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.

Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.



Time with the Younger Church

Love the World

Invitation to the Offering

The commandments of God are not burdensome.
We are called to love the Lord our God
and to love one another as Christ loves us.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord in love
and offer our gifts in works of love for others.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

For the Life That You Have Given

GG #717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends
and to know your will in the world.

Therefore, we pray in Jesus' name
that our tithes and offerings
may work to spread your love near and far.
Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

This is the joyful feast of God's faithfulness,
the abundant banquet of God's steadfast love.

Jesus invites us to this table
not as servants but as friends.
Come to this table where all are welcome.
Come with joy. Come with love.
Come to share the feast that nourishes body and spirit.



Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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.**

All glory, all honor, all praise to you, O God.
The floods clap their hands, the hills sing with joy,
and the whole earth declares your saving work.
You call us to be planted like trees by the water,
meditating on your word night and day
and bearing good fruit in due season.
Even when we pass through deep valleys,
you walk beside us and comfort us.
You prepare a table for us in times of trouble;
with grace, you fill our cups to overflowing.

With psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,
we offer out thanks and praise:
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!

We praise you for Jesus Christ our Lord.
He came to be our good shepherd –

offering green pastures and still waters
and leading us in paths of righteousness.
When he was given over to the cross,
he rose from the dead to everlasting life,
that we might share the gift of salvation.

You have put gladness in our hearts, O God,
more than when grain and wine abound.
Therefore we offer our hearts and live to you
as we share this feast of grace.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send forth your Holy Spirit, O God,
to renew the face of the earth.
Open your hand to fill us with good things,
and give us our food in due season –
the body and blood of Christ,
bread of life and cup of salvation.

Teach us to live together in unity,
and give us the blessing of life forevermore.
Lead us across the River Jordan
and into the freedom of your promised land.



Then we will praise you, O Lord,
joining the song of the great congregation,
the nations of the world,
those who sleep in the earth,
and all people yet unborn.

Until that day, we bless you, O God,
singing your praise with all our hearts.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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



Sharing Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Let us eat.
The cup of the new covenant sealed in Christ.
Let us drink.

Prayer after Communion

Living God, provider of all things,
we thank you for this bread and cup,
signs of the presence of the Risen Lord.
Strengthen us through your Holy Spirit,
that we may live in unity as Christ's body
and proclaim your love to all the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

GG #203

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

Refrain

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*

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, *refrain*
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell	Bernard Tabali		
Beverly Avila	Robert Garza	Ale Pacheco	FPC Chancel Choir

FPC McAllen Contact Information:

Street Address: 104 S. 12th Street; McAllen, TX 78501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505 Church phone: 956-682-2836
website: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>
Pastor: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net

