Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church McAllen, Texas
January 25, 2026

He Qi
Calling Disciples

Opening Sentences

- Today and every day, Jesus says, "Come! Follow me."
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship from Psalm 27

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

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek God in the temple.
Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn O God, Who Gives Us Life GG #53

O God who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Prayer of the Day

God, our light and our salvation,
Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom
and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men.
Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus,
that our lives may bear witness to the good news of your kingdom,
and our vocation serve to draw people into your love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Call to Confession

Jesus calls us to follow, knowing that we are human.
Jesus knows we are not perfect.
He knows we will not always get it right.
All he asks is that we try, learn, and try again.
Let us go to God, telling how we have tried and failed,
that God may teach us what we must learn.

Prayer of Confession

Christ, our Messiah,
you call us to fish for people,
but we are hesitant to leave our boats.
We are afraid to let go of the things we hoard,
believing they make us secure.
We are afraid to put our trust in you,
afraid to follow, afraid we will fail.
Forgive us.
Transform our fear into faithfulness,
and enable us to walk with you,
that we may be part of your work in the world.
A moment of silent prayer.

Words of Assurance

Just as Jesus called the disciples,
so Christ calls us.
Forgiven of our sin and freed to serve,
let us answer Christ's call.
Friends, 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 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart, v. 1 GG #688

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, might as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

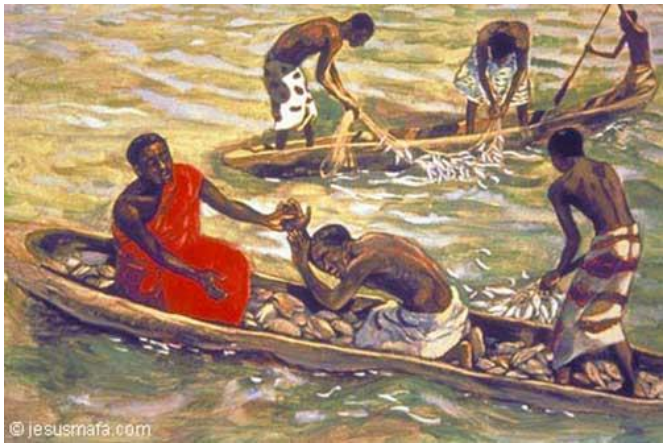
Passing the Peace of Christ

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

The Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Jesus MAFA
Jesus Calls Disciples



Prayer for Illumination

God, illumine our minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
our eyes may see your Kingdom,
our ears may hear the call of Jesus,
and our hearts may know
the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading — Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
[13] He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the
territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, [14] so that what had been spoken through
the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: [15] "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – [16] the
people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in
the region and shadow of death light has dawned." [17] From that time, Jesus
began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [18]
As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is
called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they
were fishermen. [19] And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish
for people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. [21] As he
went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his
brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and
he called to them. [22] Immediately they left the boat and their father and
followed him. [23] Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and
every sickness among the people.

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith from The Confession of 1967

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

The church gathers to praise God.

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society.

Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry. Church members are responsible for the integrity of their witness in their own particular situations.

Hymn Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore GG #721

v. 1-2 in English; v. 3-4 in Spanish

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side, I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.

Refrain

Tú necesitas mis manos,
mi cansancio que a otros descanse,
amor que quiera seguir amando.

Seňor, me has mirado a los ojos,
sonriendo has dicho me nombre,
en las arena he dejado me barca
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

Tú, pescador de otros lagos,
anisia eterna de almas que esperan,
amigo bueno, que así me llamas.

Seňor, me has mirado a los ojos,
sonriendo has dicho me nombre,
en las arena he dejado me barca
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

Duccio de Buoninsegna
Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew

Prayers of the People

Please join in our responsive Prayers of the People
for we approach God not as strangers,
but as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the church . . .
Make us followers of Jesus and fishers of people,
proclaiming the nearness of your reign
and demonstrating the good news of the gospel.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the earth . . .
Teach us not to plunder the gifts of your creation,
but to share the bounty of the land with all
and preserve your blessings for coming generations.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

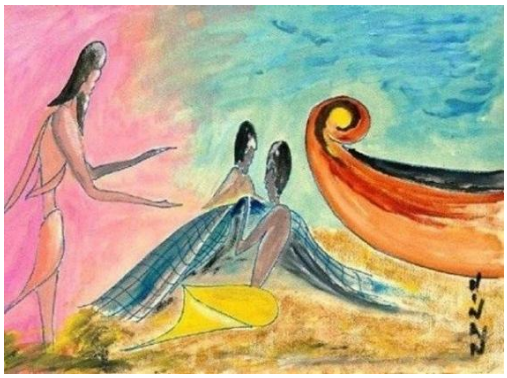
As children of God, we pray for all nations . . .
Be the stronghold of the weak
and break the power of the oppressor.
Let those who cry for you see your face.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for this community . . .
Put an end to the divisions among us.
Make us one as you are one,
united in a common vision and purpose.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for loved ones . . .
Be their light and salvation;
shelter those who are in trouble
and protect them from all harm.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, as you are well pleased with Christ,
help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you.

Mamman Ninan Artmajeur
Calling the Disciples



As you have called us to listen to Christ,
help us to always heed his word and seek his will.
These things we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord,
and we offer together the prayer he has taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

God, the source of all good things,
has given us what we need.
In joyful response, let us offer our gifts,
the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts
for loving service in the name of Christ.

Offertory

Act of Dedication Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart, v. 5 GG #688

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

Offertory Prayer

God of our salvation, receive the gifts we offer
and bless them for the work of your kingdom,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn You Walk along our Shoreline GG #170

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.
We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,
then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul."

You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water's face,
our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

We cast our net, O Jesus; we cry the kingdom's name;
we work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.
You call us, Lord, to gather God's daughters and God's sons,
to let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response From the Nets of Our Labor, v. 1 GG #751

From the nets of our labors, through the noise and confusion,
from the city of seashore, Jesus summons us all.
We will rise up and follow,
Christ before and beside us,
loving pattern to guide us,
as we answer the call.

Postlude

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

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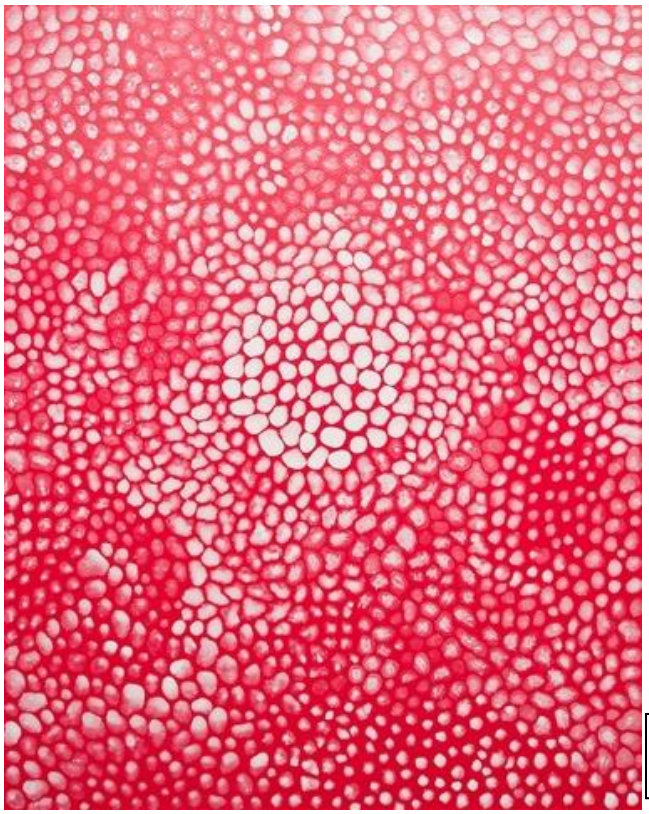

Yayoi Kusama
Sunlight