

# Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice



First Presbyterian Church  
McAllen, Texas  
February 8, 2026

Georgia O'Keeffe  
*Light Coming on the Plains No. 1*

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## Opening Sentences

- We are claimed as children of God, salt of the earth and light of the world.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

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

We are salt for the earth.

**We are a light for the world.**

Just as no one hides a lamp away,

**we will offer the world what only we can give.**

Let your light shine!

**Praise the Lord for the gifts that God has given us.**

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

## Together We Serve

GG #767

Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.

Prayer of the Day

O God from whom all blessings flow,  
help us to embrace the unique gifts  
your Spirit has instilled in each of us.  
Give us wisdom to discern  
where your world could use our talents most,  
and grant us humility to recognize  
where we rely on the strength and insight of others,  
so that, in mutual giving and receiving,  
all needs may be met,  
according to the way of Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

### Call to Confession

Into this space we bring our weights and burdens –  
the things we have done or not done,  
said or not said.

Trusting in God's mercy,  
let us lay down those burdens before God.

### Prayer of Confession

**Lover of justice, giver of mercy,  
you call us to share our bread with the hungry  
and to open our homes to the homeless,  
to care for the poor  
and to satisfy the needs of those who suffer.**

**Some of your commandments are easy to follow;  
others require so much of us!**

**How can we break the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of oppression?**

**When we consider the brokenness of our world,  
it is easy to feel overwhelmed.**

**Forgive us when we use our sense of helplessness as an excuse.**

**Remind us, we pray, that you are at work in and through us  
to bring about your reign.**

**Free us from fear and stir our hearts toward a greater generosity,  
that we might be the salt and light you have called us to be.**

*A moment of silent prayer.*

### Words of Assurance

As people born of water and the Spirit,  
we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.

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, mighty 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

### Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our understanding  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that as the Word is proclaimed  
we may receive holy wisdom  
to understand the gifts  
you have bestowed on us.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mike Moyers  
Shine



## Anthem

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same say, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup> Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

## Sermon

**We believe that God has entrusted the church  
with the message of reconciliation  
in and through Jesus Christ;  
we believe that the church  
is called to be the salt of the earth  
and the light of the world,  
that the church is called blessed  
because it is a peace-maker,  
that the church is witness  
both by word and by deed  
to the new heaven and the new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.**

Hymn      Great God of Every Blessing      GG #694

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

You Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,  
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.  
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:  
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,  
transforming broken people into the holy church.  
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:  
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

Prayers of the People

We call on you, O Lord,  
trusting that you will answer.  
We cry to you for help,  
for the power of your love  
and the blessing of your grace  
in this world that you so love.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church ...  
Help us to be like salt of the earth  
and light shining in the world,  
that all may taste and see your goodness.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth ...  
Let new life spring up in parched places;  
restore the forests, rebuild the cities;  
renew and repair your good creation.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all peoples ...  
Help us to break  
the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free,  
for this is the service you desire.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community ...  
Give bread to those who are hungry  
and shelter to those  
without houses,  
that we may live as one human family.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones ...  
Strengthen weak hearts and bones,  
and renew those who are weary  
with the living waters of your mercy.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, our God,  
let our light break forth like the dawn,  
and let your healing power spring forth,  
that we may know your saving work.  
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 ...**



Steve Prince  
*Has Your Salt Lost Its Flavor*

### Invitation to the Offering

Like a spring whose waters never fail,  
God's blessings flow into our lives.  
With gratitude for all that we have received,  
let us offer our gifts so that others may be blessed.

### 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

Loving God,  
we give thanks for all you have given to us  
and praise you for your astounding goodness.  
Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, bodies, and treasure  
for the ministry of your church.  
Bless our offerings for the work of your kingdom,  
and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn                    We All Are One in Mission                    GG #733

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

## 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

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### **Today's Worship Leaders:**

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

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Claude Monet  
*Artist's Garden at Giverny*