

Worship – First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen

Tell Me Something GOOD:

The Good News is so good it catches us by surprise.



Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep

Opening Sentences

- This Lent, we are grounding ourselves in the good news that God's love invites us, Christ's grace holds us, and the Spirit's power leads us.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit.

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert, water turned into wine,
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

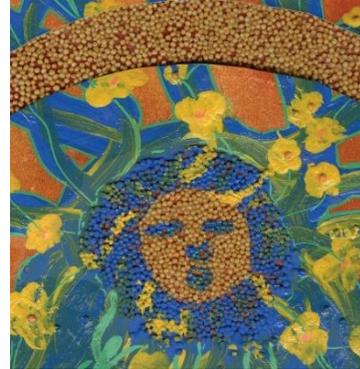
The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned into dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

We will worship this good-news God.



Hymn

I Will Exalt My God, My King

GG #622

I will exalt my God, my King; I will praise your name forever.

I will exalt your name forever. Every day I'll praise your holy name.

Refrain: I will praise your name forever;

I will exalt your name forever.

Lord our God, you are great and worthy

of the highest praise and honor,

for your greatness is far beyond us;

every day I'll praise your holy name.

Each generation to the next will proclaim your works of splendor,
and celebrate your mighty deeds. Every day I'll praise your holy name.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Lord of the wedding day, and host of the feast,
take our hearts of stone and flood them with new wine
that we might savor the ordinary miracles
happening all around us.

Call us to your table where we can be
renewed, transformed, wholly yours;
through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

You may have heard, “All is fair in love and war,”
or “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.”
God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

God’s mercy catches us by surprise.
So, with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again
as we offer together our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
somewhere along the way
we picked up the message that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.
We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions at the door.**

**But you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed –
unruly and untamed.**

**You turn water into wine –
surprising and extravagant.**

**And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already.
The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.***

**Forgive our doubt.
Pull us closer into your embrace.
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

God's grace is wild and unruly.
God's mercy is abundant and surprising.
God's love is expansive and unending.
The good news of the gospel is this:
when we ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"
the answer is and always will be:
of course, of course, of course.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Act of Praise Change My Heart, O God / *Cámbiame, Señor* GG #695

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.

Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.

Tú el alfarero, yo el barro soy.

Sólo a tu imagen, quiero siempre ser.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.

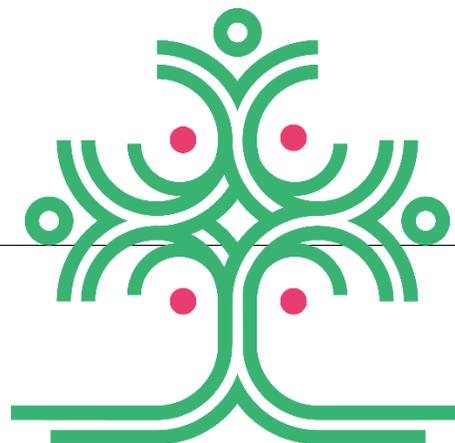
Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.

Passing the Peace

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

Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church



Prayer for Illumination

Holy One,
it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed.
It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it.
It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst.
So as we turn to your text today, we pray,
surprise us.
Speak to us.
Move through us.
Draw us closer to your good news.
We wait with bated breath. Amen.

Anthem

T. Denise Anderson
Messianic Secret



Gospel Readings

John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” **4** And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you?^[a] My hour has not yet come.” **5** His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” **6** Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. **9** When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” **11** Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

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

Sermon

Hymn

We Come as Guests Invited

GG #504

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring, renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Joy-spreading God,
we love to imagine you at a wedding,
your throat hoarse from laughter, feet tired from dancing,
brow damp from the warmth of the day.

We love to imagine you turning water into wine,
people passing glasses, quenching their thirst,
delighting in every joy-filled, holy moment.

We love to imagine that this is how your ministry began –
with celebration and joy, with banquet tables and laughter –
because we crave more of those moments ourselves.

We live in a world that seems to have run out of joy.
The news is a rotating blur of heartache.
Our hearts carry fear and grief, anxiety and loss.
We bring our prayers to you.
We pray for those caught in war-torn areas ...
for those who are spending their days in hospital rooms ...
for those who are hungry, or frightened, or lonely ...
for those who push through waves of depression each day,
or struggle to manage illness or addiction ...
for those who do not know peace or safety or hope ...

Holy God, we live in a world that is overflowing with hard news,
and we crave a piece of your joy.
So on our lowest days, and in our bleakest moments,
remind us that your ministry started with a small miracle.

On the longest nights, remind us that we are never alone.
When joy wears thin, remind us that you call us by name.
When hope flickers, remind us that you hear our prayers.
And when the weight of the world feels too heavy,
remind us that the heart of the gospel really is *good* news.

Until that promised day, when we will find ourselves
gathered around your table to feast with our neighbors,
laughing together until our eyes water
and dancing until our feet are sore,
we will pray the prayer your Son taught us, saying ...

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

All that we have and all that we own
are gifts from God.
Let us return a portion
of what God has given us
as an expression of our gratitude.

Offertory

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the free and abundant gift of grace
you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

As the Wind Song

As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Benediction
