

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

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen  
Sunday Worship – March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



*Lord, That I Might See*  
Budapest, Hungary

*Lord Christ, open our eyes  
to see clearly the light of the world.  
Holy Spirit, illumine our minds  
to perceive God's glory shining among us.  
Almighty God, prepare our hearts  
to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.*

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## Opening Sentences

- Once we lived in darkness, but now – as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

from Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.

There is nothing I lack.

**God guides me in proper paths  
for the sake of God's good name.**

God bathes my head in oil;  
my cup is so full it spills over!

**Yes, God's goodness and faithful love  
will pursue me all the days of my life.**

## Opening Hymn

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

GG #803

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,  
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;  
one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;  
no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

## Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, we profess that you are the light of the world.  
Empower us through our worship of you today,  
that we may live as children of the light  
and be faithful witnesses to your love in the world.  
We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Call to Confession

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord:  
to participate in what is good and right and true,  
and expose what is unfruitful and evil.  
Knowing that we turn from the light,  
we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden becomes visible,  
and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,  
we are people who still too often love darkness rather than light.  
We keep shameful deeds secret,  
but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.  
We prefer to think of ourselves as blameless,  
even while we are quick to pass judgment on others.  
We do not stand firmly enough with your children who are vulnerable,  
but step back, protecting ourselves.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.  
Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.  
Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.  
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,  
and shine upon us with your grace.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world. Amen.**

*A moment of silent prayer.*



Declaration of Forgiveness

The psalmist assures us  
that God's goodness and mercy  
will follow us,  
even pursue us,  
all the days of our life.  
As God's forgiven people,  
receive this goodness and mercy,  
and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will live as children of the light  
for Christ shines on us.**

**Thanks be to God!**

Act of Praise

In My Life, v. 1

GG #468

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

## Prayer for Illumination

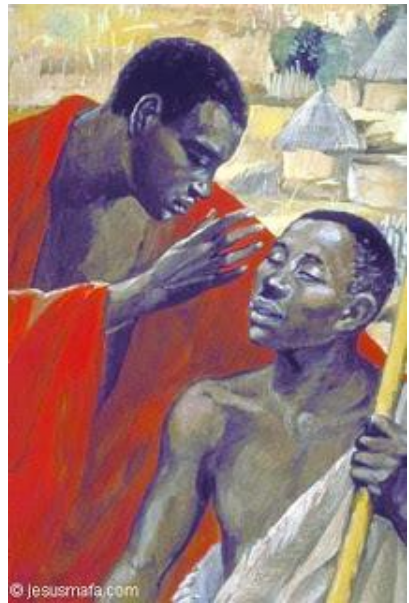
O Lord of light and salvation,  
let these words of Scripture  
live not only in our mouths,  
but in our hearts,  
that we will embody your truth  
and confess with our lives  
that Jesus is Lord. Amen.

## Time with the Younger Church

### Anthem

### Gospel Reading

John 9: 1-41



As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' <sup>11</sup> He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' <sup>12</sup> They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' <sup>25</sup> He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' <sup>26</sup> They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' <sup>27</sup> He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' <sup>30</sup> The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but God does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' <sup>34</sup> They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' <sup>36</sup> He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' <sup>38</sup> He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

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

## Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**



Duccio di Buoninsegna  
*Healing of the Man Born Blind*

### Reflection Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

GG #377

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.  
*Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
*Refrain*

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Remembering the grace of God,  
who calls us to lay down our burdens,  
let us lift up prayers for ourselves and others.  
Let us pray.

O God, we pray for our world,  
**that we may be responsible stewards  
of your creation.**

O God, we pray for our loved ones,  
**that your presence will surround them.**

O God, we pray for those who hunger and thirst,  
**that you may provide for their daily sustenance.**

O God, we pray for churches,  
**that we may be empowered to do your will.**

O God, we pray for all humanity,  
**that we may live in peace and harmony.**

O God we pray for those who are dying,  
**that you will assure them of your presence.**

We thank you, O God, for hearing our prayers.  
May we live in faith,  
rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask these and all things in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who taught us to pray together:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

## Invitation to the Offering

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.  
Sharing what we have so abundantly received,  
we bring now our tithes and offerings to God,  
with gladness and gratitude.

## Offertory

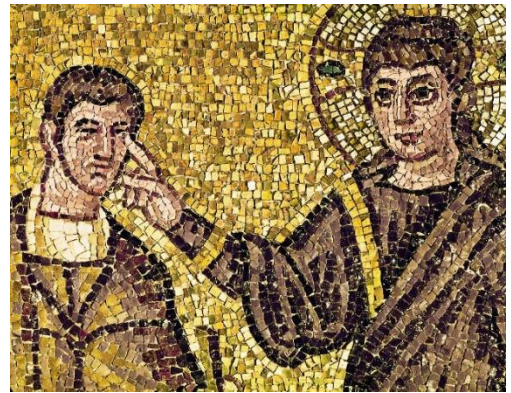
Act of Dedication

In My Life, v. 4

GG #468

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.



### Offertory Prayer

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table,  
into your presence, into your house.  
For all that you have done for us,  
most especially for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ,  
we offer our thanks and praise.  
We long to live as children of light,  
doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light  
through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep,  
and raises those who are dead to new life.  
In his name we pray. Amen.

### Hymn

#### Go, My Children, with My Blessing

GG #547

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

### The Life of the Church

#### Charge and Benediction

#### Congregational Response

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me, *refrain* GG #71

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.

### Postlude



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**Today's Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell  
Robert Garza

Lita Simpson  
Ale Pacheco

Ann Rowland  
FPC Chancel Choir

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Frans Martin Claerhout  
*Jesus Healing a Man Born Blind*