

Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 9, 2024



Alan Coustick
Gadarene Swine

Opening Sentences

- Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace as we prepare to worship you with all our minds, hearts, and spirit.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

On the day I called, you answered me.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, v. 1 & 2

GG #700

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

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

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

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

Prayer of the Day

God, our one true Lord, you seek our devotion
so we won't give it to others who would abuse us.

Help us to welcome you with wonder.

Spirit, our one true Sustainer,
grant us the power to resist the forces that kill,
and grant us love's capacity
to let go of our own false strength.

Help us to rest in your peace. Amen.

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins, for God has already forgiven us
And is calling us to return to the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, have mercy on us,
for we have failed to be faithful to you,
though you have been faithful to us.**

**You show us your wisdom,
but we prefer to go our own way.**

**Our broken relationships with you and one another
have created poverty in us and our neighbors.**

**In your mercy, reconcile us to you and one another for the work, of justice,
peace, and love, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, do not lose heart.

When we call, God hears us;

when we confess, God forgives us

We believe and so we proclaim:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

Thanks be to God!

Act of Praise

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me, v. 1

GG #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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, let your spirit now move in us,

to turn us away from the temporary

and move us to your eternal love

made visible in Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we too believe, and so we speak,¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

5:¹ For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Time with the Younger Church

Gospel Reading

Mark 3:20 – 35

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for people were saying, "He is beside himself." ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Be-el'zebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ²³ And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸ "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" ³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside they sent to him and called him ³² And a crowd was sitting about him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, asking for you." ³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking around on those who sat about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother."

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967

**Life is a gift to be received with gratitude
and a task to be pursued with courage.
People are free to seek life
within the purpose of God:
to develop and protect the resources of nature
for the common welfare,
to work for peace and justice in society,
and in other ways to use their creative powers
for the fulfillment of human life. (9.17)**

Hymn With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring, v. 1

GG #334

With grateful heart my thanks I bring;
Before the “gods” your praise I sing.
I worship in your holy place

And praise you for your truth and grace;
For truth and grace together shine
In your most holy Word divine.

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Let us bring to God our prayers
for this world that God so loves.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deep calls to deep, O Lord.
From the depths of our souls
we cry to the depth of your love.
In you we take refuge,
and this day we come to you with gratitude
for the gift of
our messy, complicated, and joyful lives.
We know that in all of it, you are with us,
and for that we are your grateful children.
Send out your light and truth
to lead us to your presence.

For the gift of this day
and this time to worship in your house,
hear our prayers of thanks as they rise like incense.
Lead us into deeper community,
that we may offer your grace to each other
and be your presence in each other's lives.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the gift of this earth
and the beauty of your creation,
we thank you.
We offer prayers of healing for creation.
May we walk lightly on this earth
and be good stewards of your good creation.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in need of your healing and restoration.
May thirsty souls find relief for their longing.
May hungry hearts be fed a meal rich in mercy and grace.
Hear our prayers --
those spoken aloud and those held within our hearts --
for the people we know to be in need of healing,
wholeness, comfort, and peace ...
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the places around our globe
where your children suffer from the effects of
war or famine or drought or injustice,
we pray for your presence and your power.
For disasters wrought by humans or by nature,
we lift up prayers for relief, for comfort, and for healing.
Guide the leaders of all nations in the ways of peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our hope is in you, O Lord,
and it is in the hope we have in Jesus Christ
that we offer these prayers this day. Amen.

And now, let us pray as Christ has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

As we share our gifts, let us remember
that giving is the truest recognition
of God's grace in our life –
for the more we give,
the more we understand grace.

Offertory

Act of Dedication I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, v. 3 GG #700
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, we thank you that in our new life in Christ
we are set free to proclaim good news
and to work for your peace and justice in this world.
Direct our gifts to fulfill your purpose
as we await the time when all creation is one in your love,
by the grace of Jesus Christ and the community of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

Your 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.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, v. 4 GG #700

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

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Mary Breden

Joe Massey

Beverly Avila

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