

Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Communion Worship Service
Sunday, February 2, 2025



Henry Ossawa Tanner
The Saviour

Opening Sentences

- What does the Holy One require of us?
To do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.
- 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 gather to offer God our worship and praise.

**Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs,
God knew and loved us.**

We gather to offer Christ our love and devotion.

**Before we drew our first breath,
Christ consecrated us as his own.**

We gather to offer the Spirit our gratitude and thanksgiving.

**Before we heard the call to heal the world,
the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We come before God with our worship and our praise.

v. 1 in English and Spanish

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

*Mil voces para celebrar a mi Libertador,
las glorias de su majestad, los triunfos de su amor.*

Prayer of the Day

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One,
for we need to feel your healing touch.
As we gather to worship you this day,
open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us.
Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness,
that our words may be true and our love may be pure.
Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade,
that we may bear all things, believe all things,
and hope all things in your love, which never ends. Amen.

Call to Confession

Trusting that we stand before the God of steadfast love,
let us offer our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Before we were formed in the womb, O God,
you knew us and you loved us.
Before we have uttered a prayer, O God,
you hear us and you love us.
You call us to reflect your love,
to be Love for one another.
Too often, we are clanging symbols,
aiming for volume rather than love.
Too often, we are greedy beings,
searching for success rather than love.
Too often, we are shallow followers,
content with comfort rather than love.
Forgive us, God of mercy, and love us into wholeness.
*A moment of silent prayer.***



Mikhail Reva
Heart of the World
Children's Hospital; Odessa, Ukraine

Declaration of Forgiveness

God has loved us since the beginning,
and God's love for us will never end.

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.

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

Time with the Younger Church *When God Made You*

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in,
that hearing your word of love,
we may become your love for others. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophets Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me and said: ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I dedicated you. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." ⁶ I said, "But Sovereign YHWH! I don't know how to speak! I'm too young!"

⁷ But YHWH said, "Do not say, 'I am too young.'" Now, go wherever I send you. And say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not fear anyone, for I am with you to protect you. It is the LORD who speaks."

⁹ Then YHWH touched my mouth and said to me, ¹⁰ "Look, I am putting my words in your mouth. This day I appoint you over nations and territories, to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:21-30

Then [Jesus] began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The same Spirit
who inspired prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Hymn

Lord, When I Came into This Life

GG #691

Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:
feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Invitation to the Offering

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also in our deeds
through the tithes and offerings we give today.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

For the Life That You Have Given

GG #717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Offertory Prayer

O God, bless these gifts that we have given
as expressions of our love
for you and our neighbors,
that they may bring closer to fulfillment
your reign of peace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Sovereign. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you / **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. /
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you alone are holy,
you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;

beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.



Detail of *Heart of the World*

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Jesus Christ,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

Amen.

Let us pray as Christ has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Sharing Bread and Cup

The Sacrament is Carried Beyond the Sanctuary

We send you out with this bread and cup
to share the feast of the risen Lord.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.**

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, giver of wine and bread,
send us from your table in confidence
that we are your own children,
born of your Spirit, fed at your table,
filled with your grace, sent to speak your truth
and offer your love to the world in Christ's name. Amen.



Hymn

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

GG #516

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore you seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Go, My Children, with My Blessing, v. 1 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.”

Postlude

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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