

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church of McAllen, Texas
February 16, 2025



Dieudonne Pluviose
Jesus Sermon Mount

Welcome and 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.

God plants us like trees by streams of water,
that we might blossom and flourish.

Blessed are those who trust in God.

The Lord watches over our way.

Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

GG #65

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of the Day

a prayer of Dionysius of Alexandria (d. 264)

God, good beyond all that is good,
fair beyond all that is fair,
in you is calmness, peace, and concord.
Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another
and bring us back to a unity of love
bearing some likeness to your divine nature.
Through the embrace of love
and the bonds of godly affection,
make us one in the Spirit
by your peace which makes all things peaceful.
We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

We wander and stray,
but God continues to reach out to us
with mercy and love.
Let us make our confession
and receive God's welcome.

Prayer of Confession

**Sustaining God,
you would have us be deeply rooted in you,
finding strength in your word
and nourishment in your grace.
More often, though, we live as chaff,
blown here and there by the winds of circumstance.
Forgive our lack of permanency
and our failures to hold fast to our commitments.
Grow our faith
that we might be firmly planted in your promises,
released from sin,
and open to the life you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The waters of grace refresh our lives
and bring forth a new creation.
Therefore, friends, hear and trust 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.**

The Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

O God, whose Word is like water to the root of the tree,
let your Word now flow into us
that we might flourish –
bearing Gospel fruit for a hungry world. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 1 (*Psalms Anew*)

Oh, the joys of those who walk not after the advice of the wicked,
nor stand in the path of sinners,
nor sit in the seat of scoffers,
² but delight in the law of Yahweh
and ponder it day and night.
³ They are like trees planted
by streams of water
that yield fruit in due season,
whose leaves do not wither;
and everything they do prospers.
⁴ The ungodly are not so
but are like chaff which the wind blows away.
⁵ Therefore, they cannot stand when Judgment comes,
nor shall sinners find a place in the assembly of the righteous.
⁶ For God knows the ways of the just,
but the way of the ungodly ends in ruin.



Eliphalet Andrews
Trees Beside a Stream

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17-26

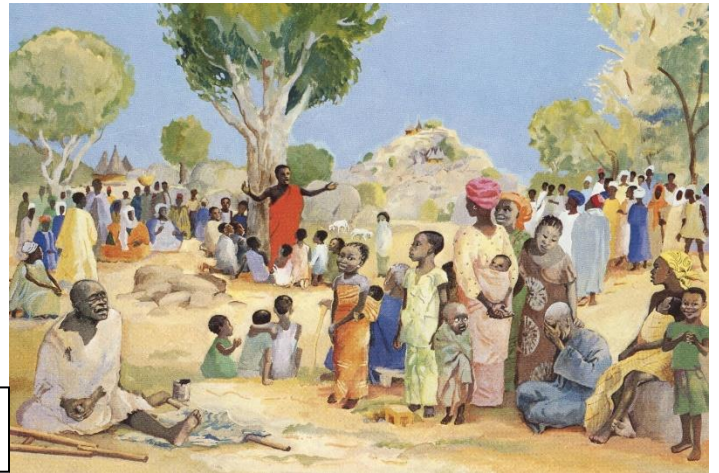
[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

Sermon



Károly Ferenczy
Sermon on the Mountain



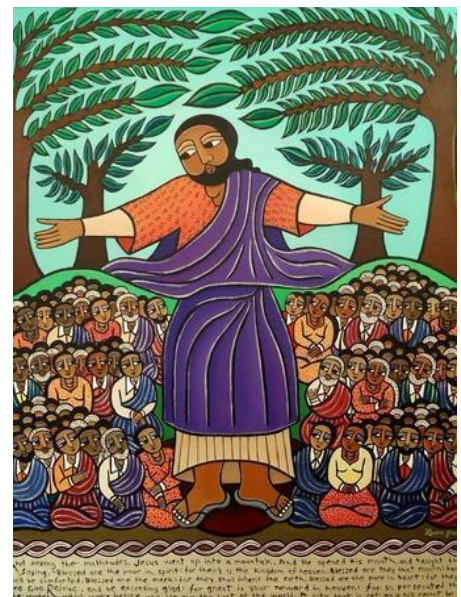
Jesus MAFA
Sermon on the Plain

Response to the Word

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.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch
for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**



Laura James
Sermon on the Mount

O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

It can be difficult to believe
that the word of God is true –
that life waits beyond death,
that joy waits beyond suffering,
that your truth waits beyond our hope.
So we come in faith,
lifting our prayers to you.

We pray for those of us who feel rooted
by streams of living water ...

We come to you with gratitude and praise,
assured and energetic, ready for your commands.
Guide us in sharing what we have with others,
that your goodness might be enjoyed by all.

We pray for those of us who feel drained,
like a shrub in the desert ...

We come to you with sickness and concern,
overworked and under-resourced,
yearning for your compassion.

Grant us the peace that comes with your presence,
that we can have the strength to keep going.



Andy Gonzales
The Sermon on the Mount

We pray for those of us who fear we are chaff:
insignificant and irredeemable ...
We come to you with guilt and anxiety,
shamed and overwhelmed,
crying for your grace.
Turn us into tools for your justice and peace
that your blessings may be known even now.

In all the places we find ourselves,
help us to find you.
In all the places we find others,
help us to share your truth. Amen.

Let us pray together as Christ has taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

Luke tells us that people came to Jesus from all directions,
seeking healing and peace.
We are the body of Christ,
surrounded by the many needs of the world around us.
So bring your tithes and offerings,
that these gifts might foster healing and encourage peace.

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

Holy One, bless and multiply these gifts we give
as tokens of our trust in you.
Use them to bless the poor,
feed the hunger, and comfort those who weep;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn

Take My Life, v. 1-3

GG #697

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.



Maurice Denis
Sermon on the Mount

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Take My Life, v. 6

GG #697

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Caly Fernandez

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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