

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
August 1, 2021
A Communion Worship Service



*For the bread of God
comes down
from heaven
and gives life
to the world.*

Opening Sentences

- Jesus said: *I am the bread of life.*
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

We do not live by bread alone,
but by the Word who became flesh
and dwells among us.

**Christ is the true bread of heaven,
the manna of freedom.**

Come, let us worship and give thanks.

Hymn

Bread of Life from Heaven, v. 1-3

Glory to God #497

*Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.*

Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.

Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;
in Christ's presence, the loaves will abound. *Refrain*

Seek not the food that will pass away;
set your hearts on the food that endures.
Come, learn the true and the living way,
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*

Love as the One who, in love for you,
gave himself for the life of the world.
Come to the One who is food for you,
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life and the Word of his kingdom.
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

God has given us a sign
that love is stronger than death:
the sign of the cross points to our freedom
from bondage to sin.
Let us seek God's forgiveness
and enter into new life in Christ.

Prayer of Confession

You are the Bread of Life, O God,
and you promise that we will never hunger again,
but we do hunger, O Lord, and often for the wrong things.
You feed us with grace, but we hunger for achievements.
You offer us peace, but we hunger for control.
You bless us with plenty to share,
but we are quick to hoard the gifts we call ours.
Forgive us, O Bread of Life, and by your forgiveness,
teach us to hunger for things that you do:
to hunger for justice,
to long for equality,
to work for the common good
until none of your children have to hunger for bread.

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, this is the good news:
In Christ's grace, our hearts are cleansed
and our lives are made whole.
In Christ's grace, we are forgiven
and welcomed into new life.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Faith Story

Brother Lawrence

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, may the reading of your Word
be for us the bread you send from heaven
that gives life to the world. Amen.



Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”



Jenny Earnshaw
The Bread of Life

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

In the Singing

Glory to God #533

In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in the Presence at this table --
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people --
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Invitation to the Offering

Each of us has been given grace,
not according to our merit, but by the measure of Christ's gift.
Let us give a measure of what has already been given to us.

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Loving God,
as you fed your people in the wilderness,
use our gifts, time, and talents as the manna
to meet the hungers of the world in which we live.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the 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, holy, holy Lord --
we praise you for your love:
bringing order out of chaos,
breathing life into dust,
leading captives to freedom,
calling wandering children home,
giving bread to the hungry,
giving drink to the thirsty,
raising the dead to life.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Thank you, Lord --
we thank you for Jesus:
Word made flesh,
light of the world,
living water,
shepherd and gate,
way and truth,
bread of heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.



April Moen
The Bread of Life

Take this bread and cup, O God -- a feast of grace;
take our hearts and lives -- an offering of praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

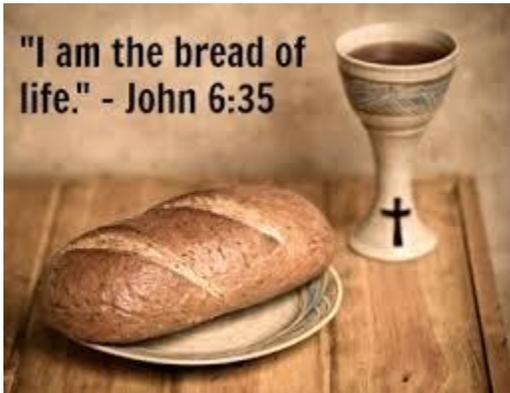
Spirit, come --
come and live in us:
in this bread,
in this cup,
in your people,
one in your body,
one in the blood;
one with Christ,
one in ministry,
in this place,
in every place;
in this world,
in the world to come

Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power,
forever and ever!
Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Sharing Bread and Cup

Words of Institution ...



The gifts of God for the people of God.
Whenever we join in this sacrament,
we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection
until he comes again.

The Feast

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Let us eat.
The cup of the new covenant sealed in Christ.
Let us drink.

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

Glory to God #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.

The Life of the Church

Charge and Benediction

Equipped now for the work of ministry,
go in peace and be bread for the life of the world.

May God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
fill you with all good things,
providing for you today and forever. Amen.

Congregational Response

Song of Hope

Glory to God #765

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Cam Henry

Ann Rowland

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC McAllen Contact Information:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1029; McAllen, TX 78505

Church phone: 956-682-2836

Pastor: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com

Church Administrator: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net