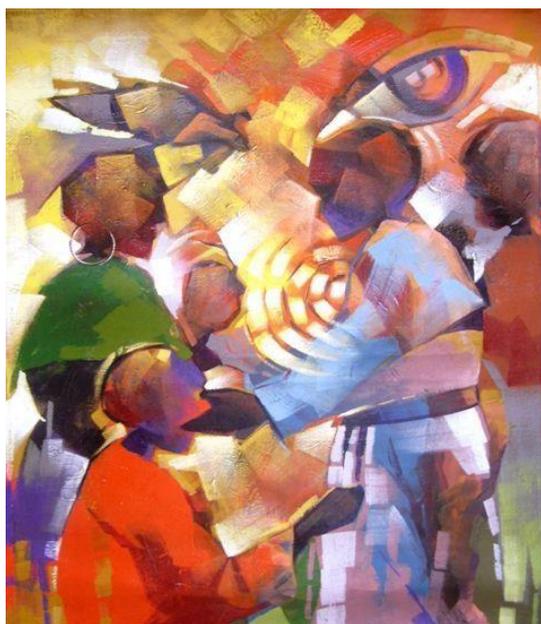

Church for A New Time

God Summons Us To:

- ◆ ***Faithful Growth***
 - ◆ ***Bold Witness***
 - ◆ ***Compassionate Mission***
-

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Sunday Worship -- October 24, 2021



“What do you want me to do for you?”

“My teacher, let me see again.”

Thobias Minzi
Christ Healing the Blind

Opening Sentences

- O magnify the Lord with me; we will exalt God’s name together!
- 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.

Come, you who are weary.

Lay down your burdens, for God can carry them.

Come, you who are joyful.

Join in God’s praise with the choir of the saints.

Come, you who are doubting.

Behold the One who brings sight to the blind.

Opening Hymn

God of the Sparrow

GtG #22

God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars --
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

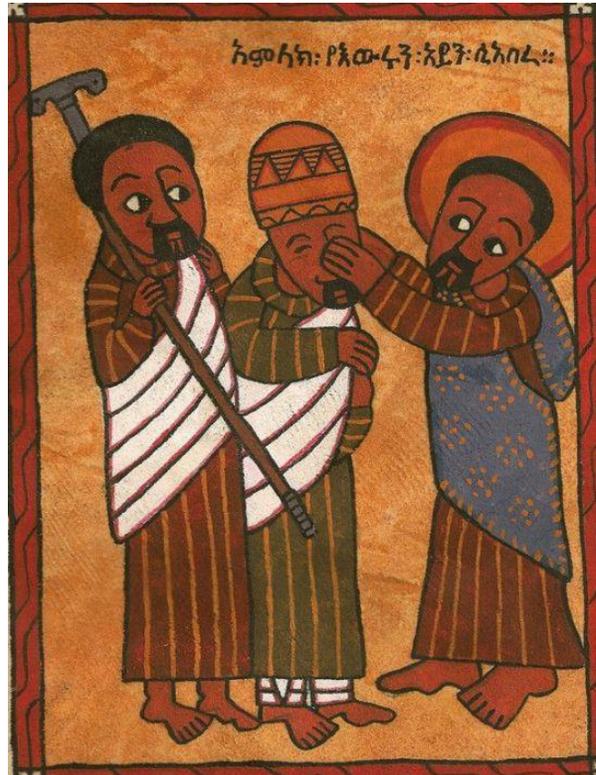
God of the earthquake, God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast --
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow, God of the cross,
God of the empty grave --
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry, God of the sick,
God of the prodigal --
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor, God of the foe,
God of the pruning hook --
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages, God near at hand,
God of the loving heart --
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home



Prayer of the Day

Merciful God,
you always hear us when we cry out.
You stay close when we are in distress.
It is you in whom we seek refuge,
and you deliver us from evil.
Let praise flow from our mouths to your ear,
for we can taste and see that you are indeed good.
All glory, praise, and honor are due to you,
O God, our redeemer and our strength. Amen.

Call to Confession

Let us offer our confession to God,
who alone has the power to save,
and who waits in mercy to forgive.



Prayer of Confession

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

**Heal us of our blindness, O Lord,
for it is a blindness we have chosen.**

**We close our eyes when faced with suffering of the world,
turn our gaze away from the needs of our neighbors,
and blur our faces in the mirror,
lest we recognize your image.**

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

**Heal us of our blindness,
and open our eyes to the beauty of your grace.**

A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

People of God, beloved of God,
the Lord, hears, forgives, and saves.

Hear and trust in the good news of the Gospel:

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

Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Dear God,
let us not only hear of you
but see you with our own eyes
through your Word.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:46-52 (NRSV)

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



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

Sermon

Response to the Word

**O Jesus Christ, teacher and healer,
you heard the cry of the blind beggar
when others would have silenced him.
Teach us to be attentive
to the voices it is easy to ignore,
that we might respond
through the power of the Spirit
to heal the afflicted
and to welcome the abandoned,
for your sake and the sake of the gospel. Amen.**

*Refrain: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;

Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,

give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;

Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;

Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

O God, we come to you, because we know you'll hear our cry.

We come to you, because you call us near to you.

We come to you, because you deliver and save.

We come to you now with our prayers and petitions.

(Brief silence is kept after each petition.)

We pray for the local and universal church.

Give us the humility to walk in your way.

We pray for the leaders in our nation
and the nations around the world.

Give them the courage to walk in peace.

We pray for those who are in need.

Give us ears to hear their cries and
hearts to be agents of your mercy.

We pray for those who have pain.

Heal, touch, and deliver them, O God.

We remember those who have died.

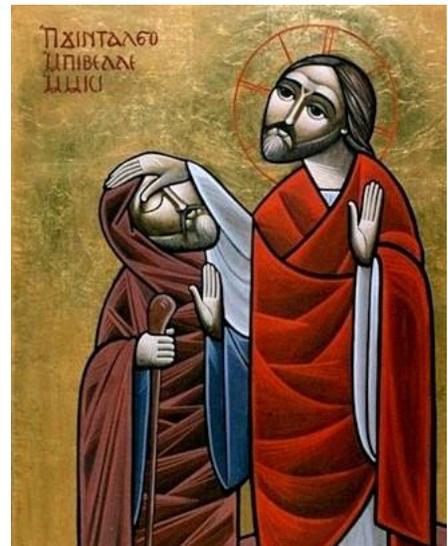
Help us give comfort to those who are left behind.

We lift our hidden prayers to you in silence,
for you hear even that which is unspoken.

All glory and praise is yours, now and forever. Amen.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven ...



Presentation of Tithes and Offering

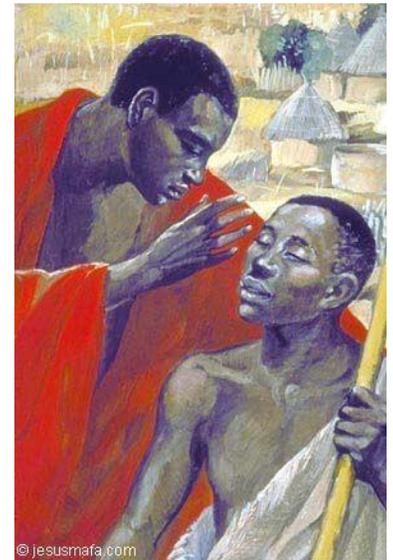
Invitation to the Offering

The Lord is indeed good,
for God has blessed us richly.
Let us offer back a portion of what we have received,
in gratitude and love.

Offertory / Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, bless our offerings with healing
that comes from your work and our hands.
We give with joy and thanks for what we have,
in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to be, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward,
O Power of my power.

Be Thou My Vision

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

GtG #450

The Life of the Church

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The Summons, v. 5

GtoG #726

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell
Beverly Avila

Chris Leonard, Liturgist
Robert Garza

Sher Wilkes, Prayers of the People
Ale Pacheco

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