

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIRST SUNDAY in LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 25)*

One: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. O God, in you we trust.  
All: **Lead us in your truth and teach us,**  
One: for you are the God of our salvation;  
All: **for you we wait, for you we worship.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art” GtG 624 *(Verses 1, 3, & 5)*

1. **I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.**
  
3. **Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
and all our substance and our strength receive;  
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
and give us strength in every trying hour.**
  
5. **Our hope is in no other save in thee;  
our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
that in thy strength we evermore endure.**

Words: *Psalms*, Strasbourg, 1545; trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868  
Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
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## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(from Psalm 25)*

One: “Remember, O Lord, your kindness and constant love which you have shown from long ago.”

All: **“Forgive the sins and errors of my youth. In your constant love and goodness, remember me, Lord! Keep your promise, Lord, and forgive my sins, for they are many.”**

One: “To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer. In you, my God, I trust.” In these moments of silence, hear us, as we make our personal confession to you.

*--time for silent, personal confession--*

One: “Because the Lord is righteous and good, the Lord teaches sinners the path they should follow. God leads the humble in the right way and teaches them God’s will.”

All: **“Teach me your ways, O Lord. Make them known to me. Teach me to live according to your truth. For you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you.”**

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the cross of Christ we discern the height and length and depth and breadth of God’s love and forgiveness.

All: **So let us rejoice in the good news, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved. Alleluia! Amen!**

## THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

## THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 11:12-25

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Hungering for More Than Just Figs” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” GtG 829 (*Verses 1-3*)

1. **My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray;  
take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine!**
2. **May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou has died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!**
3. **While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day;  
wipe sorrow's tears away;  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.**

Words: Ray Palmer, 1830  
Music: Lowell Mason, 1831, alt.  
*Public Domain*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ  
that justifies us and reconciles us to God.  
Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace  
and live by it.  
We believe the Holy Spirit works today  
whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ.  
As long as we live we struggle with sin,  
but the Spirit's presence assures us  
God will complete what God has begun in us.**

“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: To you, O Lord, we lift our souls.  
All: O God, in you we trust.

## THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERING

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**God of steadfast love and faithfulness,  
we are humbled as we try to do what is right  
and to walk in your ways.  
Receive, we ask, our offerings  
as tokens of our faithfulness;  
and use them for your own good purposes  
in the church and in all creation.  
We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Invitation to the Lord's Table*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

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

...

One: And so we pray:  
All: **Holy One, we glorify your name.**

*The Lord's Prayer* (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*Communion of the People*

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

*Prayer*

### **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "So Let Our Lips and Lives Express" [*Tune 738*]

- 1. So let our lips and lives express  
the holy gospel we profess;  
so let our works and virtues shine,  
to prove the doctrine all divine.**
- 2. Thus shall we best proclaim abroad  
the honors of our Savior God,  
when his salvation reigns within,  
and grace subdues the power of sin.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707  
Music: Henry Percy Smith, 1874  
*Public Domain*

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
All: ...Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

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