

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**A SHARING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 118)*

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.  
**All: This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**  
One: The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
**All: This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**  
One: This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
**All: Hosanna, we beseech you, O Lord!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" GtG 196

*Refrain:* **All glory, laud, and honor  
to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring!**

**1. Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's name comest,  
the King and blessed One. (Refrain)**

*(continued...)*

2. **The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayers and anthems  
before thee we present.   *(Refrain)***
  
3. **To thee, before thy passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.   *(Refrain)***
  
4. **Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King!   *(Refrain)***

Words: Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.  
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1614; arr. William  
 Henry Monk, 1861  
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#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Accept the praise we bring, O God, accept the good we offer, and forgive us the sins we do. We sing your praises one moment, and the next we act as if we did not even know you. We pledge ourselves to you, then run in fear at the first sign of difficulty. We speak of our love for you, but our lives betray us. Forgive us, merciful and tender God. Renew and transform us by the working of your Spirit, that our words and our deeds may proclaim you Lord. May we learn to rely upon your strength and rest in your grace, that we may know your peace and live your truth and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

##### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON   *(from Mark 1 and Romans 5)***

- One:           “The right time has come, and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!”
- All:           **The Good News is this: “God has shown us how much God loves us, for it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!”**
- One:           Friends, believe that Good News! Claim it! Live it!
- All:           **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

## 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 15:1-15

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Barabbases All” by Pastor Bill Vincent

\*HYMN “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” GtG 221

1. **O sacred head, now wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down;  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory,  
what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call thee mine.**
2. **What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain:  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve thy place;  
look on me with thy favor,  
and grant to me thy grace.**
3. **What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever;  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
out-live my love to thee.**

*(next page...)*

Words: Latin, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. James Waddell Alexander, 1830, alt.  
Music: PASSION CHORALE, Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1729  
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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**Jesus died for sinners.**

**Religious leaders hated Jesus**

**because he criticized their hypocrisy  
and reprovved their neglect of justice and mercy.**

**They charged him with blasphemy and sedition**

**when he claimed to speak and act with God's authority.**

**One of Jesus' followers betrayed him.**

**Others abandoned and denied him**

**because they were afraid to stand with him.**

**Civil authorities condemned him**

**because he provoked unrest among the people.**

**He was sentenced, mocked, beaten,**

**and crucified as a common criminal.**

**We confess that in the execution of Jesus**

**the sin of the human race reached its depths.**

**The only innocent one was condemned and put to death,**

**not by sinfulness of one nation,**

**but by the sinfulness of us all.**

**In the presence of Jesus,**

**who lived out what God wants us all to be,**

**we were threatened beyond endurance.**

**Blinded by our rebellion against our Creator,**

**we killed God's Son when we met him face to face.**

**We believe that in the death of Jesus on the cross**

**God achieved and demonstrated once for all**

**the costly forgiveness of our sins.**

**Jesus Christ is the reconciler between God and the world.**

**He acted on behalf of sinners as one of us,**

**fulfilling the obedience God demands of us,**

**accepting God's condemnation of our sinfulness.**

**In his lonely agony on the cross**

**Jesus felt forsaken by God**

**and thus experienced hell itself for us.**

**Yet the Son was never more in accord with the Father's will.**

**He was acting on behalf of God,**

**manifesting the Father's love that takes on itself**

**the loneliness, pain, and death**

**that result from our waywardness.**

*(continued...)*

**In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Godself,  
not holding our sins against us.  
Each of us beholds on the cross  
the Savior who died in our place,  
so that we may no longer live for ourselves,  
but for him.**

“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:** Save us, O Lord...  
**All:** ...for your mercy is great.

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**For your love offered to us in Jesus Christ, we give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God. Receive our gifts as a symbol of the dedication of our very selves to you. Touch our hearts daily, that we might respond in love with our whole lives. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## SENDING

\*CLOSING HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” GtG 223

1. **When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
2. **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
3. **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
4. **Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1824

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## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

All: ...Amen.

## POSTLUDE

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