

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to give worship and praise.
All: **We come as God's people to be nurtured and rejoice.**
One: Come to sing songs and share prayer.
All: **We come to be challenged, to learn, and to grow.**
One: Come to be refreshed and renewed by the power of God with us.
All: **We come to worship our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" GtG 663

1. **Awake, my soul, and with the sun
your daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay your morning sacrifice.**
2. **Lord, I my vows to you renew.
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
guard my first springs of thought and will,
and with yourself my spirit fill.**
3. **Direct, control, suggest, this day,
all I design or do or say,
that all my powers, with all their might,
in your sole glory may unite.**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, alt.

Music: MORNING HYMN, Francois Hippolyte Barthelemon,
1785; harm. *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*, 1917
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,
we need your help in following you,
for we are blind and foolish.
Part of us wants to do your bidding,
but part of us does not,
and we struggle within ourselves.
Though our hearts may be in the right place,
we fear we do not have what it takes to follow in your way.
Forgive us, gracious God.
In your mercy, deal tenderly with us.
Renew our pledge to you.
Strengthen and encourage us,
and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Relentlessly, God seeks us out.
All: **With abundant grace and boundless mercy,
God seeks us out.**
One: This is good news!
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

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 14:32-42

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “It’s Hard to Watch When You’re Asleep” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” GtG 451

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
2. **Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Words and Music (OPEN MY EYES): Clara H. Scott, 1895
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

(continued...)

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
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!"**

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Merciful God...
All: ...hear our prayer.

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*

**Dear God,
for the gift of good friends and good fellowship,
we give you thanks.
For the wonder of this creation and its bounty showered upon us,
we give you thanks.
For the sacrifice and love of Christ,
we give you thanks.
As we offer our gifts,
use them, and us,
to accomplish your purposes,
making our lives a continuous song
of gratitude and commitment to you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN "Christ of the Upward Way"**

- 1. Christ of the upward way,
my guide divine,
where you have set your feet
may I place mine;
and move and march wherever you have trod,
keeping face forward up the hill of God.**

- 2. Give me the heart to hear
your voice and will,
that without fault or fear
I may fulfill
your purpose with a glad and holy zest,
like one who would not bring less than the best.**

- 3. Christ of the upward way,
my guide divine,
where you have set your feet
may I place mine;
and when your last call comes serene and clear,
calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."**

Words: Walter John Mathams, ca. 1915; alt.
Music: SURSUM CORDA (Lomas), George Lomas, 1876
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE** “Go with Us, Lord” GtG 748

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

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Music: TALLIS’ CANON, Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker’s *Whole
Psalter*, ca. 1561. *Public Domain.*

POSTLUDE

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