

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord!
All: **Praise the Lord, O my soul!**
One: I will praise the Lord as long as I live!
All: **Let the name of the Lord be renowned throughout the earth, now and forever.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Fairest Lord Jesus” GtG 630

1. **Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**
2. **Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.**
3. **Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

(continued...)

**4. Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

Words: Munster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt; stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.

Music: CRUSADERS' HYMN, Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We sing our praise of you, O Lord, and confess our need for you as well. We lose our way in life and need you to guide us. We turn away from your way and need you to return us to you. We find it hard to love our neighbors, and need you to transform us by your love that we might love in return. Help us, O Lord our God. Forgive us our sins. Strengthen us in our weakness. And guide us in the way of your abundant life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another!

All: **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 READINGS Mark 12:41-44
Mark 14:3-9

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “The Gift Which Counts” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Savior! Thy Dying Love” (*Verses 1-3*)

1. Savior! Thy dying love
thou gavest me,
nor should I aught withhold,
dear Lord, from thee:
in love my soul would bow,
my heart fulfill its vow,
some off’ring bring thee now,
something for thee.

2. At the blest mercy seat,
pleading for me,
my feeble faith looks up,
Jesus, to thee;
help me the cross to bear,
thy wondrous love declare,
some song to raise, or prayer,
something for thee.

3. Give me a faithful heart,
guided by thee,
that each departing day
henceforth may see
some work of love begun,
some deed of kindness done,
some wand’rer sought and won,
something for thee.

Words: Sylvanus D. Phelps, 1862

Music: SOMETHING FOR JESUS, Robert Lowry, 1871

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

(continued...)

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
 suffering the depths of human pain
 and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
 vindicating his sinless life,
 breaking the power of sin and evil,
 delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Generous God...
All: ...hear our prayer as we give ourselves to you.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, with your power you create us, by your grace you forgive us, through your Spirit you renew us. We give you thanks for your countless blessings. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves in thanksgiving and service to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Sing "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" GtG 503 (*Verse 1*)

- 1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

(The prayer continues...)

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(You are invited to hold the bread so we may eat it together, signaling our commitment as a community. You are invited to drink the cup as you are served, marking our individual commitment to the Lord.)

Sing "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" GtG 503 (*Verse 3*)

**3. When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt. © 1979 Hope Publishing Company.

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Music: O QUANTA QUALIA, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681; harm. La Feillee's *Methode du plain-chant*, 1808. *Public Domain.*

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Lord of All Good” GtG 711

1. **Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

2. **We give our minds to understand your ways;
hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great design;
heart with the flame of your own love ablaze,
till for your glory all our powers combine.**

3. **Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

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Music: TOULON, Genevan Psalter, 1551; adapt. from GENEVAN 124. *Public Domain*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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