

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are together today because...
All: **...God calls us to be a new and different people, salt and light to the world.**
One: We have been called for a mission:
All: **to be the body of Christ in today's world.**
One: So we come as God's people to be nurtured and rejoice.
All: **We come to be challenged, to learn, and to grow.**
Unison: **So come, let us worship the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Give Thanks, O Christian People" GtG 644

1. **Give thanks, O Christian people,
for workers of our day
who heed the call to service
and make it their life's way
to go to feed the hungry,
to tend to those in need,
to work for equal justice,
till all God's folk are freed.**

2. **Give thanks, O Christian people,
for leaders of our years
who live to share with others
our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light,
to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward
our living Lord to meet.**

(continued...)

3. **Give thanks, O Christian people,
for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing
in God's eternal Word:
to share Christ's love in living,
to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given
to plant the gospel seed.**

4. **Give thanks, O Christian people,
for life in fellowship
with all who trust our Savior
their serving to equip:
to ease another's burdens,
to cope in joy and stress,
to magnify God's message
and Christ's great love confess.**

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George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God,
We have been called together into the church
to live the resurrection faith,
to embody Easter and touch lives as Jesus did.
We have not done this well.
Our vision has been narrow and limited.
Our testimony has been timid and self-protective.
We have lived for ourselves,
and apart from you.
We have turned from our neighbors,
and ignored the pain of the world.
In your great mercy forgive our sins
and free us from our self-centered ways,
that we may choose your way
and follow your Son,
Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- One: We remind ourselves of the good news we have heard and in which we believe:
- All: Christ transforms. Christ renews. We are a new creation.**
- One: In Christ Jesus, God has promised to forgive us and reconcile us to God and each other. So let us rejoice and be glad, proclaiming once again the good news.
- All: For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen! 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 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “A Share ... and Share Alike” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

1. **I'm gonna live so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!
I'm gonna live so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!**
2. **I'm gonna work so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!
I'm gonna work so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!**

(continued...)

3. I'm gonna pray so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!
I'm gonna pray so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!
I'm gonna sing so
God can use me
anywhere
and anytime!

Words and Music: African American spiritual
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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.
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.**

(continued...)

**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: God who calls...
All: ...strengthen us in your way.

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*

**Wonderful God, we thank you for gathering us into this community.
We thank you for your love which never fails. We thank you for holding us
and guiding us and calling us your own. Accept our grateful hearts and the
gifts we offer. Through our giving, and through our giving thanks, may your
name be known and your will be done. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "We All Are One in Mission" GtG 733

**1. We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.**

(continued...)

**A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.**

**2. We all are called for service
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.**

**3. Now let us be united
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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