

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, to celebrate the mighty acts God has done in our midst.  
All: **We come to anticipate the call into God's future.**  
One: Come, to participate in God's journey and work today.  
All: **We come in faith to live in hope to be nurtured in love.**  
Unison: **We come to join in the walk and work and worship of God.**

\*OPENING HYMN "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" StF 2191 *[tune 321]*

1. **Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain 'round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.**

2. **Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors,  
whose love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.**

3. **Divine Eternal Lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise  
where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.**

**Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.**

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## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful, steadfast God,**

**we present ourselves to you as we are,  
aware that we have fallen by the wayside  
and failed in your way.**

**We are like little children when it comes to following you:**

**we run ahead, expecting you to follow us down the path we choose;  
or we lag behind, expecting you'll wait until we're good and ready.**

**Forgive us for not trusting that you know the way.**

**Forgive us for failing to rely upon your sustaining grace and steady presence.**

**Forgive us for not embracing your way of love that has already embraced us.**

**Forgive us, ever-loving God.**

**Fill us with your steadfast Spirit.**

**Guide us down your hope-filled, life-affirming path.**

**And renew us in the image of your Son,**

**our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**by whose mercy we stand before you and offer our confession and ourselves.**

**Amen.**

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** In the strength of the Lord Almighty we confide.

**All:** **In the mercy of God we trust.**

**One:** By the power of God we are restored.

**All:** **By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we are renewed.**

**One:** So rejoice and celebrate this day!

**All:** **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new  
life. 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** Isaiah 43:16-21  
Hebrews 12:1-2

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “Anniversary! Anniversary?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “God of Our Life” GtG 686

1. **God of our life, through all the circling years,  
we trust in thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**
  
2. **God of the past, our times are in thy hand.  
With us abide.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.  
Be thou our guide.  
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**
  
3. **God of the coming years, through paths unknown  
we follow thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.  
Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Apostles' Creed)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Today's translation of the Apostles' Creed is reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, copyright 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.)

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

One: God of our life...  
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*

**God of grace and embrace,  
we thank you for walking with us  
and providing for us  
and loving us all along the way.  
We bring these offerings to you  
as tokens of our gratitude  
and symbols of the offering of our lives**

**to share the joy of your kingdom,  
the peace of your presence,  
and the grace of your good news,  
all to your glory.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"**

- 1. This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**
- 2. For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of diff'rence,  
as faith and hope are born again.**
- 3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.**
- 4. Christ is alive and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
Our God is making all things new.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**\*RESPONSE "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!**

Words and Music (I'M GONNA LIVE): African American spiritual.  
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## **POSTLUDE**

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