

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When forces in the world threaten us,
when our bodies or spirits turn against us,

All: **there is One who seeks us,
One who meets us,
One who heals us,
whose love washes over us
and sets us free for joy.**

One: This One is the Lord.

All: **So come, let us worship God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" GtG 645

1. **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!**

2. **What God's almighty power hath made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!**

(continued...)

3. **The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!**

4. **Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!**

Words: Johann Jacob Schutz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
Music: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God Most High,
grant us faith to confess our sins
and seek your mercy.
There are barren places in our lives
where we have wandered far from you.
We have listened to voices
who distracted us from your call.
We have submitted to powers
competing for our loyalty to you.
Do not turn away from us,
but forgive us, merciful and gracious God.
Lead us out of the tombs we inhabit;
guide us into your light.
Feed us with your word;
deliver us from evil.
Help us hear and embrace the call to your kingdom;
then send us out to serve you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON and THE PEACE

One: Great is God's faithfulness!
All: **With God there is forgiveness and great power to redeem.**
One: God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.
All: **God has turned our mourning to dancing,
forgiving us fully and freely.**
One: Our souls will not be silent.
All: **As forgiven people, we will praise the Lord!**
One: And share in the goodness and grace that we know in Christ Jesus.
For in him we are forgiven. And may his peace be with you all.
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 5:1-20

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Disturbing..." by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN "Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit" GtG 181

1. "Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit,"
cried God's healing, Holy One.
"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it.
Flee as night before the sun."
At Christ's voice the demon trembled,
from its victim madly rushed,
while the crowd that was assembled
stood in wonder, stunned, and hushed.

2. Lord, the demons still are thriving
in the gray cells of the mind:
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,
doubts that stir the heart to panic,
fears distorting reason's sight,
guilt that makes our loving frantic,
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

(continued...)

**3. Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit,
in our mind and in our heart.
Speak your word that when we hear it
all our demons shall depart.
Clear our thought and calm our feeling;
still the fractured, warring soul.
By the power of your healing
make us faithful, true, and whole.**

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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.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Hear our prayer, O Lord...
All: ...by your grace, in your mercy, with your power.

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*

**With these gifts, O God,
we remember with thanksgiving
the life that we have because of you.
Make us grateful every day
for the privilege of offering ourselves
for the well-being of all your world. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "We Cannot Measure How You Heal" GtG 797

**1. We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.**

(continued...)

2. The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3. So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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