

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In days of joy and tenderness,
All: we lift up our eyes, seeking you.
One: In days of anger and frustration,
All: we lift up our eyes, seeking you.
One: When we suffer injustice and oppression,
All: we lift up our eyes, seeking you.
One: When we sing and clap with joy
All: we lift up our eyes, seeking you,
One: We have gathered that our daily witness might be empowered.
All: We are here to be equipped for the journey of life.
One: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.
All: We worship the One whose grace covers all our needs.

***OPENING HYMN** “We Bring Our Weakness” *[tune GtG 32]*

**1. We bring our weakness, God, to you,
for you can make us strong.
Our needy boasting you subdue,
and turn us from our wrong.
Accept, we pray, our urgent plea
for grace amid our trials.
And, in our blindness, help us see
beyond the world’s denials.**

**2. We gather to express our praise,
for you are great and good.
Your works continue to amaze,
where love is understood.**

(continued...)

**Our guide and shepherd you have been,
through journeys that you grant.
Your word equips us deep within
to live in covenant.**

**3. You send us out, good news to share
with all the doubting world,
for Christ has taught us how to care
despite invectives hurled.
We seek not honor or acclaim
but only to extend
the service done in Jesus' name,
more broken lives to mend.**

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Music: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt. 1868. *Public Domain*.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
you call us to be your beloved children
and to care for one another,
yet we fail to love others and ourselves.
So we live in the tension
of what we are called to be
and our lived reality.
We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness
than we are with the power of your love.
In fear, we worship idols;
in despair, we collapse in hopelessness;
in rage, we seek to dominate others.
We fall far short of the good we want,
and our growing in the likeness of Christ is painfully slow at best.
Helpless and ashamed, we turn our hearts to you.
Forgive us,
and then tenderly teach us
to stand strong and courageous in the fullness of your love.
Help us to know your peace that passes all understanding
as we claim your forgiveness and begin anew.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the Good News!
The old life is gone, a new life has begun.
You are not who you were; may you live into who you can be.

All: God's grace and mercy are never ending.

One: Rejoice in God's grace.
Know you are forgiven
Claim your forgiveness,
and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ 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 6:1-30

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised" GtG 724

1. **O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**
2. **O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.**

(continued...)

**My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.**

3. **O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

4. **O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.**

Words: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.
Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur Henry Mann, 1881
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from "*A Declaration of Faith*")

**In forming his people and sending them into the world
Jesus called individuals to be disciples.
They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings,
and to follow him in life and death.
We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.
It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.
Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey
all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.
No more than Christ are we spared
the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.**

(continued...)

**Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people
do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,
but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.
Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a
reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that”
it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of glory...
All: ...grant us your grace.

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*

**Most generous God,
you have blessed us with a life to live
and gifts to serve and share.
We offer these gifts to you as signs of our gratitude,
and as tools in the ministry of the church.
Use them and us to make known the good news
of your healing love and renewing power,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” GtG 307**

- 1. God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

- 2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

- 3. Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

- 4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.**

(continued...)

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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