

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With heart and soul and voices we come to worship.

All: **We seek to love and serve the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and strength and mind.**

One: So come to give thanks and praise.

All: **We come to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "O God, Who Gives Us Life" GtG 53

**1. O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.**

**2. O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.**

**3. O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.**

(continued...)

**Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION “Forgive Us, Lord” GtG 431

**Forgive us, Lord.
Forgive us, Lord.**

1. For grievance and injustice:
forgive us, Lord.
Aloofness and indifference:
forgive us, Lord.

Forgive us, Lord.

2. For weakness and transgression:
forgive us, Lord.
Resistance and rebellion:
forgive us, Lord.

Forgive us, Lord.

3. In your eternal mercy:
forgive us, Lord.
In your sustaining grace:
forgive us, Lord.

Forgive us, Lord.

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SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from II Corinthians 5)*

One: "The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died."

All: "And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

One: Because Christ died, we receive forgiveness for our sins. Because he was raised from the dead, we receive new life in him.

All: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

One: So rejoice and be glad, and believe the good news of God's grace!

All: For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life!

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 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "Spirit, Open My Heart" GtG 692

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.**

(continued...)

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**3. May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

(continued...)

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

**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 of mercy and grace...
All: ...hear our prayer, and create in us a clean heart.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Living God, we thank you for your abundant gifts of life.
Receive our offerings as tokens of our gratitude,
and infuse them with life-giving power for those in need.
With these gifts we dedicate ourselves
to live in the truth of your word,
and follow your commandments with sincere hearts;
for the work and ministry of Christ in this world. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” GtG 729

**1. Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,
in my heart, (in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**2. Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,
in my heart, (in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**3. Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,
in my heart, (in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

(continued...)

**4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.
In my heart, (In my heart,
in my heart, (in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

Words and Music (I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN): African American spiritual
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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