

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord..  
All: **...for we know the Lord's mercy!**  
One: Let us sing the praises of our God..  
All: **...for we have seen God's greatness!**  
One: So, let us join and sing..  
All: **...of the blessings of the Lord our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" GtG 610 (*Verses 1-4*)

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace!**
2. **The name of Jesus charms our fears,  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life, and health, and peace.**
3. **Christ speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful waken to rejoice;  
the poor in heart believe.**
4. **My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl Gotthelf Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839  
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## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, giver of mercy, in Christ's name hear us as we confess our sin,  
for we confess that our good intentions have gone astray.  
We favor the people who are like us  
and honor those we deem to be important.  
We dishonor the poor,  
write off those with whom we disagree,  
excuse our self-serving behavior, and  
sow injustice in our own unfair treatment of others.  
It is so much easier to give advice than to do good.  
We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair  
than to give up our own advantages.  
Forgive us, O God, and lead us in your life.  
Renew us in body and spirit,  
that we will be able, through your help,  
to walk in the way you intend for us.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Isaiah 44)*

One: The Lord says, "I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and  
your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."  
All: **In the name of Jesus Christ we approach God in confidence. For  
through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we are restored and forgiven.  
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 7:24-37

### SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Open Our Eyes" StF 2086

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.**

*(continued...)*

~ 2 ~

**Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.**

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**SERMON** by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” GtG 451

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
  
2. **Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
  
3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Words and Music (OPEN MY EYES): Clara H. Scott, 1895  
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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**God sent God’s Son**  
to proclaim release to those who are bound,  
to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand,  
to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.

**The Lord is moving toward the time**  
when the glorious liberty of the children of God  
will be manifest throughout the whole creation.

**We testify God is at work here and now**  
when people obey Christ's commission  
to witness to him and make disciples of all nations,  
when they spread the good news by their words  
and embody it in their lives.

**We believe that God sends us**  
to tell all nations  
that Christ calls everyone to repentance, faith, and obedience.

**We are to proclaim by word and deed**  
that Christ gave himself to set people free  
from sin and self-hatred,  
from ignorance and disease,  
from all forms of oppression,  
and even from death.

**We are to offer them in Christ's name**  
fullness of life now and forever.

**We must not distort the gospel**  
by weakening its promises or demands,  
by identifying it with oppressive structures,  
by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ.

**We must not restrict our proclamation**  
to persons just like ourselves.

**We invite people everywhere**  
to believe in Christ and become his followers.

**We urge them to join us in telling others the good news**  
and in struggling for justice, compassion, and peace.

“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:** Hear us, O God...  
**All:** ...for your mercy is great.

**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*

**We give because you have been generous to us, gracious God.  
We give because we need to give in order to realize your image within us.  
We give to feed the hungers of body and soul  
that are all around us and deep within.  
With our voices we will sing your praises;  
with our hands we will care for the suffering.  
With our feet we will seek to walk faithfully;  
with our hearts we will love you completely.  
Accept the offerings we bring,  
for the sake of those in need  
and for the furtherance of your witness in this world.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (*Tune 490*)

**1. Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed,**

*(continued...)*

**we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift that you impart.**

**2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.**

**As, O Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.**

**3. As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light,  
in its height and depth and greatness,  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving,  
your abundant life to share.**

**4. Called from worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*(next page...)*

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