

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 117)*

One: "Praise the Lord, all nations!"  
All: "Give praise to God, all peoples!"  
One: "The Lord's love for us is strong."  
All: "God's faithfulness is eternal."  
Unison: We come to worship and praise the Lord!

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Lift High the Cross" GtG 826 *(Verses 1-3)*

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1. **Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**  
*(Refrain)*
2. **All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.**  
*(Refrain)*
3. **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally.**  
*(Refrain)*

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Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916  
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## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have called us, O God,  
and we have refused to listen;  
you have stretched out your hand  
and we have not taken it.  
We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought.  
We have taken what you have given us  
and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you.  
Forgive us for living in opposition to your will.  
Forgive our inability to recognize you  
and live out the reality of your gospel.  
Lead us away from this grief and sorrow  
we bring upon ourselves and upon you.  
Give us the insight and the heart we need  
to understand your place in our lives  
so that our words and actions might reflect  
your glory in the lives of others.  
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Psalm 103)*

One: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."  
All: "As a parent has compassion for the children, so the Lord has compassion for those who revere the Lord."  
One: As the shepherd searches for the lost sheep, so the Lord seeks us out.  
All: **The One who is the Way comes to show us the way.**  
One: So rejoice and be glad, and give thanks for the grace of God.  
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!**

## 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 8:22-9:1

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**SERMON** by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" StF 2129

1. **I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
no turning back, no turning back.**
  
2. **The world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me  
no turning back, no turning back.**
  
3. **Though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
no turning back, no turning back.**

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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.  
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.**

*(continued...)*

**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.**

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## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE EUCHARIST**

#### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Lord, who gives us everything we have,  
    we return with joy a portion of our bounty,  
    giving to the work of your church and your world  
    what is already yours: ourselves, our lives, and our means.  
May this offering serve  
    as a powerful witness  
    to this world in need.  
Teach us to use what we have with wisdom and compassion.  
    for the building of your kingdom.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN** “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation” GtG 503

- 1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation,  
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;  
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;  
ours, a commitment we know never ends.**

*(continued...)*

2. **Here, at your table, confirm our intention;  
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;  
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,  
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.**
  
3. **When, at your table, each time of returning,  
vows are renewed and our courage restored,  
may we increasingly glory in learning  
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

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## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Invitation to the Lord's Table*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

One:           The Lord be with you.  
All:           **And also with you.**  
One:           Lift up your hearts.  
All:           **We lift them to the Lord.**  
One:           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All:           **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The prayer continues...)*

*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.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*Communion of the People*

(Please partake of each element as you are served, remembering Christ comes to you and Christ calls you.)

*Prayer*

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Will You Come and Follow Me” GtG 726  
(The Summons)

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown;  
will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
2. **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”**
3. **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

*(next page...)*

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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