

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS**

**GATHERING**

**WORDS OF WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come to you in love and hope, as the light  
kindled in an ancient stable, shines brightly  
upon us.

All: **We come to you to release us from all anger,  
that we may love and forgive each other,  
fortified by the grace and mercy poured out  
for us in Bethlehem.**  
**We come in faith, that our lives may be an  
offering for every one of your creation,  
remembering the life born in Bethlehem to be an  
offering to us.**

One: Refresh our spirits. Give us the repose of the truly  
penitent. Give us the courage and joy to live in  
angry times without giving way to anger, hatred or  
despair. Challenge us to share the grace, mercy and  
love with which you have blessed us.

All: **We come to worship you, O God, our rock and  
our redeemer.**

**\*OPENING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” GtG 136**

**Refrain**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.  
To Refrain**

2. **The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Refrain**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

3. **Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.**

**To Refrain**

*Word: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work, II, 1940*

*Music: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work, III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987 Music: Harm. 1989 Melva Wilson Costen.*

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**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, in the mystery of divine love you sent  
Messiah, the source of all grace, mercy and love  
That fill us with peace and joy.  
You have commanded us to forgive and love all people.  
At every turn you have confirmed that we are a  
Blessing, made in your image and held in your love.  
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.  
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's  
Standards, rather than listening to your love.  
We believe.  
Help our unbelief.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

One: In Christ's name we pray. Amen

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

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.)*

**SONG OF PRAISE:** “Glory to God, Whose goodness Shines one Me” GtG 582

1. **Glory to God, whose goodness shine on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,**

### **Refrain**

**As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be. Amen**

2. **World without end, without end. Amen  
World without end, without end. Amen  
World without end, without end. Amen  
Refrain**

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## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 46 [NRSV]

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE:** Colossians 3:12-17 [NRSV]  
*(After opening of Message)*

**MESSAGE** “... And All Manner of Thing Shall be Well” by Pastor Jay Summerville

**\*HYMN** “Love Has Come” GtG 110

**1. Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.**

**3. Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

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#### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**God's sovereign love is a mystery  
beyond the reach of the human mind.  
Human thought ascribes to God  
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.  
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ  
by showing power in the form of a servant,  
wisdom in the folly of the cross,  
and goodness in receiving  
sinful men, women, and siblings.  
The power of God's love in Christ  
to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer  
is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things  
to serve the purposes of God's love.**

*(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15)*

#### **SONG OF RESPONSE "Come! Live in the Light" GtG 749**

**1. Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy  
and the love of the Lord!**

*(continued)*

**We are called  
to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom  
of the city of God.  
We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.**

**2. Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy  
to all those in fear!  
We are called  
to be hope for the hopeless  
so hatred and violence  
will be no more.  
We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.**

**3. Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day  
when all will be one!  
God will reign,  
and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers  
united in love.  
We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.**

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Traditional)

**Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed by 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*

**DOXOLOGY** "We Lift Our Voices" GtG 710

**We lift our voices;  
we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices;  
Lord, use our hands;  
Lord, use our lives;  
they are yours:  
we are an offering.**

**All that we have,  
all that we are,  
all that we hope to be,  
we give to you,  
we give to you,**

**We lift our voices;  
we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering.**

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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Joy to the World” GtG 134

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
  
2. **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
  
3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**
  
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.*

*Music: ANTIOCH, attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742;*

*arr. Lowell Mason, 1836*

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**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**