

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to God in humility and anticipation.
All: **God comes to us with compassion and power.**
One: We are here. God is here.
All: **So come, let us worship the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN “God Is Here!” GtG 409**

- 1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**
- 2. Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**
- 3. Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.**

(continued...)

**Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

- 4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988. Copyright 1979 Hope Publishing Company

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941.

Copyright 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 & #20702248.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we are far from the people you have called us to be.
We need you to give us a proper vision of who we are.
For we are mired in self-centeredness,
 seeing things only in terms of how they relate to us and our happiness.
We play down our own talents and envy what others can do.
We hog our gifts for ourselves and our own benefit,
 instead of offering them to the service of others.
We ignore your calling to treat others as members of our common family.
Forgive us, gracious and merciful Lord.
Renew in us the grace to love, the courage to be faithful, and
 the willingness to serve in your name.
Hear us for Christ's sake we pray. 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 forgiven.**

One: Hear that good news! For God's promise to forgive is sure and everlasting. Know you are forgiven 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 I Corinthians 12:12-27

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Putting You In Your Place" by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" GtG 298 [Tune 81]

1. **Lord, you give the great commission:**
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
2. **Lord, you call us to your service:**
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
3. **Lord, you make the common holy:**
"This my body; this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

(continued...)

4. **Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**
5. **Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

Words: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978. © 1978 Hope Publishing Company
Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 & #20702248.
Music: AUSTRIAN HYMN, Franz Joseph Hayden, 1797, alt.
Public Domain.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from "*A Declaration of Faith*")

**The early Christians recognized
a diversity of abilities and functions
as gifts of the Spirit.
Some were tempted to use these gifts
to serve their own needs and ambitions,
to form elite groups who looked down on others.
But the gifts were given for the common good,
to build up the community in love
and to equip it for its mission in the world.
We are convinced that the Holy Spirit
still calls people to various offices in the church
and gives diverse gifts to believers.
We are to use them to speak and embody plainly
the gospel of Christ in the world.
No gift is of value without love.**

"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*.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

One: "There are varieties of gifts."
All: **"But it is the same Spirit who gives them."**
One: "There are varieties of service."
All: **"But it is the same Lord who is served."**
One: "There are varieties of working."
All: **"But it is the same God who inspires them all in every one."**
One: "Each one is given a gift by the Spirit..."
All: **"...To use it for the common good."**
One: "Together we are the body of Christ..."
All: **"...And individually members of him."**

(from I Corinthians 12)

Constitutional Questions to Officers

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Wondrous God...
All: **...fill us with the power and grace of your Spirit.**

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*

With power you sustain us, by grace you save us, O God. Thank you for your ministering to our needs. As we have been served, so may we serve others. Accept these gifts we bring as a sign of our commitment to discipleship in Jesus's name. May they – and we – go to share your love and care with the world. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Our God, We Sing and Celebrate” [*Tune 32/197/805*]

- 1. Our God, we sing and celebrate! Your grace to us is clear!
For we recall your faithful love for all your people here.
We've worked together, yet we know it's not the things we've done,
But you, who give us life and hope in sending us your Son.**
- 2. Lord Jesus, in this broken world, you teach us how to heal,
And in a world where pride abounds, you call your church to kneel.
Amid the hate, we're called to love; amid the fear, to pray.
You call us to live diff'rently; transform us every day!**
- 3. You give us gifts to be your church; we follow as you call.
Here some are teachers, others preach, to speak your truth to all.
Some reach to help the sick and poor, while some are called to lead;
Yet by your Spirit, we are one, in word, in prayer, in deed!**
- 4. How easy to look back and see your graceful, constant care,
And yet we're called to look ahead, to grow, to serve, to dare!
What is your will in this new day? God, help us pray and search,
For as we seek to walk with you, we are your faithful church.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
All rights reserved. *Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission
under ONE LICENSE #A-739819. All rights reserved.*
Music: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt. 1868. *Public Domain*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Dedication are written by Tara Bulger and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2025.

The Prayer for Illumination and Prayers of the People (adapted) are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.

The Prayers of the People (adapted) are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Connections Worship Companion: Year C Volume 1*. Copyright 2021.