

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on I Corinthians 13)*

One: Love is patient.
All: Love is kind.
One: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
All: Love does not insist on its own way.
One: Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.
All: Love rejoices in the truth.
One: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
All: Love never ends.
Unison: Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

***OPENING HYMN** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” GtG 366 *[Tune 761]*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.

(continued...)

**Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

- 3. Come, Almighty to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

- 4. Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
Music: BEECHER, John Zundel, 1870
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come before you, O God,
confessing our sins and trusting in your mercy.
We admit to you and to each other
that we have not always lived lives of love.
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not loved you with all our heart and soul and strength and mind.
We have lost patience and been rude.
We have been irritable and insisted on our own way.
We have even let love end.
Forgive us and heal us, gracious God.
Renew us and transform us by your love.
Sustain us by your presence,
and grant us courage
to live the life of love you call us to
in Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on I Corinthians 13)*

One: God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end.

All: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

One: We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

One: God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

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 13:1-13

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Happily Ever After ... : The Sequel" by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" GtG 703

1. **Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.**

2. **O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.**

(continued...)

~ 3 ~

3. **O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.**

Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. John Wesley, ca. 1739, alt.
Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri Frederick Hemy, 1864; alt.
James George Walton, 1874
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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.
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.**

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: O Lord of love...
All: ...hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Dear God, we give you thanks for your gracious love to us. Make us eager to share your love with others. Accept these offerings we bring as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors. Use them -- and us -- to spread the message of your grace and mercy, your peace and love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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

(You are invited to go ahead and partake of each of the elements as you are served, remembering how Christ comes to you.)

Sing “Come to the Table of Grace” GtG 507

1. **Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table;
it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.**
2. **Come to the table of peace...**
3. **Come to the table of love...**
4. **Come to the table of hope...**
5. **Come to the table of joy...**

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “I Come with Joy” GtG 515

1. **I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**
2. **I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

(continued...)

3. **As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

4. **The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

5. **Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Words: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993 © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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