

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to give worship and praise.
All: **We come as God's people to be nurtured and rejoice.**
One: Come to sing songs and share prayer.
All: **We come to be challenged, to learn, and to grow.**
One: Come to be refreshed and renewed by the power of God with us.
All: **We come to worship our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise" StF 2084 [*Tune 112*]

1. **Come, let us with our Lord arise,
our Lord, who made both earth and skies:
who died to save the world he made,
and rose triumphant from the dead;
he rose, the Prince of life and peace,
and stamped the day forever his.**

2. **This is the day the Lord has made,
that all may see his love displayed,
may feel his resurrection's power,
and rise again, to fall no more,
in perfect righteousness renewed,
and filled with all the life of God.**

3. **Then let us render him his own,
with solemn prayer approach his throne,
with meekness hear the gospel word,
with thanks his dying love record,
our joyful hearts and voices raise,
and fill his courts with songs of praise.**

(next page...)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1763

Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1912
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We celebrate your presence and power around us, O God;
yet we acknowledge that our lives do not reflect your glory very well.
We hesitate to step out in faith.
We strangle your word among us.
We resist your power to use us.
We shy away from your call when the way seems difficult.
Forgive us, merciful God.
Create within us new hearts,
bound to you, adoring you.
By the power of your Spirit,
renew our strength of conviction
and our joy in service;
that we might follow in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on I Corinthians 15)*

One: Because Christ has been raised from the dead,
sin and death do not have the last word!

All: Our faith is not in vain!

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel –
God's radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love
will not let us go and
is ever bringing resurrection and new life.

**All: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
we are forgiven
and set free to live for God and neighbor.
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 15:12-20

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “*Nevertheless ... Power and Purpose*” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Christ Is Risen” [PH#109] [*Tune 81*]

**1. Christ is risen, Christ is living,
dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not hold him,
nor the tomb where he was laid.
Do not look among the dead
for one who lives forevermore;
tell the world that Christ is risen,
make it known he goes before.**

**2. If the Lord had never risen,
we'd have nothing to believe.
But his promise can be trusted:
“You will live, because I live.”
As we share the death of Adam,
so in Christ we live again.
Death has lost its sting and terror.
Christ the Lord has come to reign.**

**3. Death has lost its old dominion,
let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ, the firstborn of the living,
gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God who causes
hope to spring up from the ground.
Christ is risen, Christ is giving
life eternal, life profound.**

Words: Nicolas Martinez, 1960; trans. Fred Kaan, 1972 © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

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Music: AUSTRIAN HYMN, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797, alt.

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

- One: What is the nature of resurrection hope?
- All: **Resurrection hope is a hope for the transformation of this world,
not a hope for escape from it.
It is the hope that evil in all its forms will be utterly eradicated,
that past history will be redeemed, and
that all the things that ever were will be made new.
It is the hope of a new creation,
a new heaven and a new earth,
in which God is really honored as God,
human beings are truly loving, and
peace and justice reign on earth.**
- One: Does resurrection hope mean that we don't have to take action
to relieve the suffering of this world?
- All: **No.
When the great hope is truly alive,
small hopes arise even now
for alleviating the sufferings of the present time.
Reconciliation – with God, with one another, and with oneself –
is the great hope God has given to the world.
While we commit to God the needs of the whole world in our prayers,
we also know that we are commissioned
to be instruments of God's peace.
When hostility, injustice and suffering are overcome here and now,
we anticipate the end of all things
– the life that God brings out of death,
which is the meaning of resurrection hope.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- One: In your might and your mercy...
- All: **...Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Thank you, God, for touching us
and blessing us
and walking with us along life's way.**

**We offer these gifts
in gratitude for your power and your purpose,
as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world.**

**Use them, and us,
to share your abundance
and proclaim your love
and reflect your glory.**

In the name of our Resurrected Lord we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers” GtG 231 [*Tune 509*]

**1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**

**2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.**

(continued...)

**3. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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