

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: We gather to worship and praise God.
All: **We bring our joys and sorrows, our fears and frustrations, and look to God for help.**
One: The Lord our God is full of goodness and mercy.
All: **We look to the Lord in trust and confidence.**
One: So let us worship the Lord our God, in whom we believe, by whom we were created.
All: **Let us worship the Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.**

***OPENING HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” GtG 39**

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

2. **Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**
(Refrain)

(continued...)

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O Lord, for failing to trust in you, for failing to follow where you lead. We'd rather head in our own direction than go where you would guide us. We think we can take care of ourselves without any help from you or anyone else. But we are sadly mistaken. Have mercy upon us, O God. Forgive us and help us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Revive in us our hope and trust in you. Rescue us from our wanderings, and lead us in your paths of right relationship and peace. For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the strength of the Lord Almighty we confide.
All: **In the mercy of God we trust.**
One: By the power of God we are restored.
All: **By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we are renewed.**
One: So rejoice and celebrate this day!
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. 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 Psalm 23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Antacid for a Feast of Fears” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” GtG 803

**1. My shepherd will supply my need;
the Lord God is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.**

**2. When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.**

**3. The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. *Public Domain*

Music: RESIGNATION, U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's Beauties of
Harmony, 1828. *Public Domain*

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: In your mercy, Shepherd God...
All: ...hear the prayers of your people.

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*

**Holy God, Divine Shepherd,
you anoint us with the oil of gladness;
your love overflows our hearts.
Accept our offering for the good of the world
as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" GtG 187

- 1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.**
- 2. We are yours: in love befriend us;
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.**
- 3. You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.**

(continued...)

4. Early let us seek your favor;
early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.

Words: Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836, alt.
Music: BRADBURY, William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt.
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE** "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" GtG 541 (*Verse 1*)

1. God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Words: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.
Music: RANDOLPH, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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POSTLUDE

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