

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    *(from Psalm 25)*

One:            "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;"  
All:            **"my God, I put my trust in you."**  
One:            "Show me your ways, O Lord,"  
All:            **"and teach me your paths."**  
One:            "Lead me in your truth and teach me,"  
All:            **"for you are the God of my salvation;  
                  in you have I trusted all the day long."**  
One:            We come to worship the God of all grace and mercy.

**\*OPENING HYMN**    "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"    GtG 475

1. **Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love!**
2. **Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.**

*(continued...)*

3. O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.  
Music: NETTLETON, Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred  
Music, Part Second*, 1813  
*Public Domain*

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- One: Holy God, we turn from you and frequently lose our way.  
All: **We forget all you have done for us,  
and make false idols to be our gods.**  
One: We get ourselves so turned around by temptations  
that seduce and steal our hearts.  
All: **We are skilled in doing evil,  
but we do not know how to do good.**  
One: We excuse our mistakes and missteps  
with arguments that just don't add up.  
All: **In the folly of our hearts  
we live as though there is no God.**  
Unison: **Holy God, forgive us. Find us. Restore us as your people.  
For Christ's sake. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Psalm 25)*

- One: "For your name's sake, O Lord,"  
All: **"forgive my sin, for it is great."**  
One: "Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;"  
All: **"remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord."**  
One: "Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,"  
All: **"for they are from everlasting."**  
One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
Hear and know the good news of God's grace and mercy and love:  
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven; we are restored; we are renewed.  
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** Luke 15:1-10

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “From the Inside” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak” GtG 722

1. **Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.**
2. **O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**
3. **O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.**
4. **O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.**
5. **O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1839, alt.

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Brief Statement 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: Gracious Lord...  
All: ...receive us in your mercy.

**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.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Carol Gruber

**OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**For your power to save and the grace to want to,  
we give you thanks, O God.  
Accept the gift of our hearts and the offering of our lives,  
that your will may be done and your love be abundantly shared.  
In Christ's 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.  
*Public Domain*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**\*RESPONSE** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" GtG 546 (*Verse 2*)

2. Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful,  
ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey  
Thring, 1880, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.  
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**POSTLUDE**

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