

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Luke 11 and Psalm 121)*

One: We have come to meet the God who welcomes us.
We have gathered to experience God's steadfast love.
All: We come asking, searching, and knocking.
God will answer us and will give what is good.
One: Listen, for God will speak to those who want to hear.
Turn your hearts toward the one who saves.
All: For our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Unison: Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" GtG 435

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy,**
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
2. **For the love of God is broader**
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.

(next page...)

Words: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
Music: IN BABILONE, Dutch melody; arr. Julius Rontgen, ca. 1906
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, although we come to church on Sundays,
we too often live the rest of the week as though you don't exist.
We listen for teachings to our own liking.
We follow those who flatter us;
We participate in the greed that is destroying your good earth,
and we allow evil to triumph through our neglect.
Forgive our faithless and fickle ways.
Open us to your constant presence, O God.
Tune our ears to the sound of your voice;
turn our hearts to your ways of grace;
that we might grow in faithfulness to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us.
Our Creator is still forming and shaping us,
forgiving us, and allowing us to grow.
Hear the Good News of the Gospel. Believe it. Live it.
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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 READINGS Luke 11:1-13
Luke 18:1-8

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "The Key...Is Not in Your Pocket" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” GtG 465**

- 1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit;
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!**
- 2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!**
- 3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.**

Words: Joseph Scriven, 1855

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1868

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer we approach God with reverence, confidence and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. ...

... When we pray, we respond with love to that greater love which meets us from above. ... By praying we acknowledge that we depend on grace for all that is good, beautiful, life-giving and true.

(continued...)

Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty and love. Prayer means offering our lives completely to God, submitting ourselves to God's will, and waiting faithfully for God's grace. Through prayer God frees us from anxiety, equips us for service, and deepens our faith.

... Communion with God is finally the answer within the answers to all our prayers.

(from *The Study Catechism: Full Version*, Copyright © 1998 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sing “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” GtG 469

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**

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THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Source of all goodness, power, and strength,
we come with gifts in response to your love.
You pour out your goodness;
we bring you thanksgiving.
You infuse us with power;
we offer the fruits of our labor.
You sustain us with strength;
all that we do we dedicate to your glory.
Accept these gifts we bring
that through them we may do justice,
and love kindness,
and walk humbly with you,
as a testimony to your abiding grace and presence. Amen.**

***HYMN** “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” GtG 494 (*Verses 1-4*)

1. **Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou light of all,
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.**
2. **Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
thou savest those that on thee call;
to them that seek thee thou art good,
to them that find thee, all in all.**
3. **We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;
we drink of thee, the fountainhead,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.**
4. **Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
where'er our changeful lot is cast,
glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

Words: Latin, 12th cent.; trans. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.
Music: QUEBEC, Henry Baker, 1854
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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 (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

(continued...)

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)

(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” GtG 516

- 1. For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**
- 2. By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**
- 3. With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**
- 4. In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

Words: Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924, alt.
Music: KINGDOM, V. Earle Copes, 1959
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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