

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

CHRIST the KING SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Luke 1 and Psalm 95)*

One: Blessed be the Lord God,
who has looked favorably upon the people
and redeemed them.

All: **God has raised up a mighty Savior
from the house of David,
as foretold by ancient prophets.**

One: So come, let us sing unto God;
let us make a noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: **Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

Unison: **Let us worship God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" GtG 159

1. O sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them
from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
the angels sing alway.
2. O sing a song of Nazareth,
of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name
on all the winds that blow.

(continued...)

3. O sing a song of Galilee,
of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea
and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee,
dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's word,
falls peace upon the soul.
4. O sing a song of Calvary,
its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree,
and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
is mighty now to save.

Words: Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1899

Music: KINGSFOLD, *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph
Vaughan Williams, 1906

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you brought forth the world for the love of Christ,
yet we have lived in rebellion and turned away from our created purpose.
We have acknowledged the Lordship of Christ with our lips,
but we have not honored him with our lives.
We have served the idols of wealth and privilege;
we have sought the protection of violence to oppose violence;
we have lived in fear of death and loss;
we have not loved our neighbors, nor sought reconciliation with our enemies.
Forgive us, O God.
Deliver us from misplaced loyalties and unacknowledged sin.
Instruct our hearts in the ways of peace.
And free us for joyful service
for the sake of the world,
in the way of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Because Christ died, we receive forgiveness for our sins.
Because he was raised from the dead, we receive new life in him.
All: **In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner
and loves the world.**
One: So rejoice and be glad.
Believe the good news, and let us live it.
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved.
In Jesus Christ, we become new people.**

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Lucy and Daphne Rice

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:1-12, 24-26a, 32-43

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Cross Perspective” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Your Only Son” GtG 518
(Lamb of God)

**1. Your only Son,
no sin to hide,
but you have sent
him from your side
to walk upon
this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God.**

Refrain: **O Lamb of God,
sweet Lamb of God,
I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!
O wash me in
his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

(continued...)

**2. Your gift of love,
we crucified;
we laughed and scorned
him as he died;
the humble King
we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

Refrain:

**3. I was so lost,
I should have died,
but you have brought
me to your side
to be led by
your staff and rod,
and to be called a lamb of God.**

Refrain:

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems
that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.**

**The people of God have often misused God's promises
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.
But in Christ the new world has already broken in
and the old can no longer be tolerated.**

(continued...)

**We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.
But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.
Hope gives us courage and energy
to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.**

**Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

(“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Mighty God of tender mercy...
All: ...hear our prayer.

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*

**Gracious God,
you have looked upon your people with mercy, generosity, and love.
You have granted your favor to your people,
offering them redemption, salvation, and wisdom.
And so we offer these gifts for your hurting and broken world.
May they be multiplied to do your service.
May we be strengthened to do your work.
In the name of Jesus the Christ, both Lamb and Shepherd,
who multiplied small gifts and fed multitudes. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” GtG 274

**1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.**

**2. Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss,
you, the everlasting instant;
you who are both gift and cost.**

**3. You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.**

**4. Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory;
worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.**

(next page...)

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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