

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 136)*

One: Come, to stand in the presence of the Lord.
All: **“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**
One: Come, to worship the Holy One.
All: **“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**
One: Come, to sing of God's faithfulness.
All: **“for God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**
Unison: **We come, to worship the Lord our God.**

***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)

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William Marion Runyan, 1923

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we worship and adore you,
yet still stumble in our attempts to follow you.
We do not love others with the same love we know from you.
We go off in our own directions instead of yours.
We try to secure our futures with our own resources instead of trusting in yours.
Have mercy upon us, gracious Lord.
Strengthen us in our faith in you.
Bolster us in our hope in you.
Nurture us in our love for you and others.
For it is in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
that 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 136

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “The Beat Goes On” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “God of Our Life” GtG 686

1. **God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in thee.
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**
2. **God of the past, our times are in thy hand.
With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.
Be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.**
3. **God of the coming years, through paths unknown
we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.
Our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Brief Statement 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: Lord, in your mercy...
All: ...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*

**Dear God, we give you thanks
for your guiding presence and your sustaining peace.
In gratitude for all that you do for us
and all that you mean to us,
we bring these gifts.
Use them and us
to embody your presence and share your peace with the world.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Wherever I May Wander”

- 1. Wherever I may wander,
wherever I may be,
I'm certain of my Maker's love;
God's care is over me.
God made the great high mountains,
and made the wide blue sea;
God made the sky where airplanes fly;
God made the world, and me.**
- 2. Throughout the whole creation
I see God's loving care
for everyone in every land,
God's children everywhere.
Wherever I may wander,
wherever I may be,
I'm certain of my Maker's love;
God's care is over me.**

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A SERVICE OF ENDINGS *(See insert)*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE** “Go with Us, Lord” GtG 748

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

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POSTLUDE

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