

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are so happy to have you join us for this Service of the Lord's Day. We acknowledge this Sunday as Third Sunday in Lent.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 95:1-7a)*

One: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

All: **Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

One: For the Lord is the Great God, And the great King above all gods.

All: **In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.**

One: The sea is His, for He made it; And His Hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

All: **For He is our God, and we are the people of His Pasture, And the sheep of His Hand.**

*OPENING HYMN "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" GtG 32

1. **I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.**
2. **I sing the goodness of the Lord
who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
Where-e'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky! *(continued...)***

3. **There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.

Music: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*,
1784; alt. 1868 *Public Domain*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Father God, forgive us for not always loving You fully with our hearts, minds,
bodies, and souls. Forgive us for hardening our hearts and rebelling against Your
Word. Forgive us for grieving Your Holy Spirit. Cleanse us, Lord; empty our wells
of the darkness that saddens You and breaks Your Heart.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Psalm 103:8-12*) [NKJV]

One: "The Lord *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, *So* great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us (*Psalm 103:8-12, NKJV*)."

***RESPONSE:** "We Are Forgiven" GtG 447

**We are forgiven, we are forgiven,
Thanks be to God, thanks be to God.**

**We are forgiven, we are forgiven,
Thanks be to God, thanks be to God.**

Text: trad. Liturgical text.(Public Domain)

Music: We Are Forgiven by Hal H. Hopson, 1955

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THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: "Eternal God, Your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and enlightens us to hear Your Word fresh each day. Help us to rely always on Your Promises in Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7 (NKJV)

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42 (NKJV)

PRAYER FOR SERMON

One: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

SERMON "How Deep are the Secrets Hidden in Our Wells?" by Rev. Paula Cooper

***HYMN** "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" GtG 494

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-e'er our changeful lot is cast,
glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

(continued...)

**5. O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright.
O chase the night of sin away,
shed o'er the world by holy light.**

Words: Latin, 12th cent.; trans. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.
Music: QUEBEC, Henry Baker, 1854
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles Creed”** *(Traditional)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(Contemporary)*

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your Will be done,
on earth as is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
*(continued...)***

**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**

**Lord, use these offerings and us to partner with You in the building-up of
Your Kingdom here on Earth.**

***CLOSING HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” GtG 307**

1. **God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

2. **Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

3. **Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

(continued...)

**4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
Tune: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**