

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 133:1-3)

One: Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!

All: It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

One: It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion;

All: For there the Lord Commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Come, Holy Spirit, fill this place with Your Presence. Open our hearts, souls, and minds to be enlightened and inspired by Your Holy Power.

***OPENING HYMN “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove” GtG 279**

**1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with all thy quickening powers;
kindle a flame of sacred love
in these cold hearts of ours.**

**2. In vain we tune our formal songs;
in vain we strive to rise;
hosannas languish on our tongues,
and our devotion dies.**

(continued...)

**3. Dear Lord, and shall we ever live
at this poor dying rate?
Our love so faint, so cold to thee,
and thine to us so great!**

**4. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with all thy quickening powers;
come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
and that shall kindle ours.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, alt.

Music(ST. AGNES): John Bacchus Dykes, 1866, alt.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Let us come to God, humbly, in truth and spirit, as we seek Him to cleanse us of our unrighteousness, our eternal guilt and shame, and to make us white as snow, transforming us into the righteousness He desires for us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your Likeness and Image;

through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen. (BCW pg, 88)

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the Good News! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He Himself bore our sins in His Body on the Cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE: “Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)” GtG 581

**1. Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen**

*Text: Traditional liturgical text; Music: (GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)): Henry
W. Greatorex, 1851. Public Domain*

THE PEACE

One: Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this Peace we were
called as members of a single body [that is Jesus, the Christ].
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: God our Helper, by Your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the
Scriptures are read and Your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into
Your Truth and taught Your Will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our
Lord.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT	Genesis	45:1-15	(NKJV)
GOSPEL	Matthew	15:(10-20), 21-28	(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 (Psalm
19:14, NKJV)."*

SERMON "Do No Harm!" by Reverend Paula Cooper

PRAYER OF PRAISE

One: Blessing and Glory and Wisdom and Thanksgiving and Honor and
Power and Might be to our God forever and ever!

All: Amen

***HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" GtG 306**

**1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

**2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**3. We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**4. When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

**5. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.**

Words: John Fawcett, 1782.

MUSIC(DENNIS, SM): Johann Nageli; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845.

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***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The 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.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

One: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
(*Luke 6:38, NKJV*).

Reflection

***THE DOXOLOGY** GtG #606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1531.
OLD HUNDREDTH LM Public Domain*

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Lord, our Provider, we offer these gifts and ourselves to You in
return for a small portion of all the blessings and gifts You have
given us.**

***CLOSING HYMN “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” GtG 700**

**1. I’m gonna live so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna live so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2. I’m gonna work so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna work so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**3. I’m gonna pray so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna pray so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**4. I’m gonna sing so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna sing so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**

Call to Worship: Psalm 133:1-3; NKJV.

The Opening Prayer: The Revised Common Lectionary.

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Prayer for Sermon: Psalm 19:14; NKJV.

Offering Invitation: Luke 6:38, NKJV.