

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

15TH SUNDAY after PENTECOST – COMMUNION SUNDAY

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 149:1-5, 9c, NKJV*)

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful.

All: Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

One: Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre.

**All: For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with victory.
Praise the Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

One: Our Lord and Savior, we take pleasure in being in Your Presence on this day. May our worship, full of songs of praise and prayers, rise up to You as a sweet aroma, In Jesus' Name,

All: Amen.

***OPENING *HYMN “I Come with Joy” GtG 515**

**1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me. (continued...)**

2. **I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**
3. **As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**
4. **The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**
5. **Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION *(1 John 1:5-7)*

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. Let us confess our sins to God and to ourselves.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (BCW, pg. 87)

**Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, whose
Face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose Mercy we forget in
the blindness of our hearts:**

**Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts
and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may
draw near to You,
confessing our faults, confiding in Your Grace, and finding in You
our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ Your Son.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (BCW, pg. 56-57)

*One: Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only
Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ Rose for us, Christ Reigns in
Power for us, Christ Prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new
creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you
[we] are forgiven and be at peace.*

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: Lord God, open our ears, our minds, our souls, and our hearts to the reading of Your Word so that we may be transformed into the people You desire us to be and be used in Your Mission for the world.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Exodus 12:1-14 (NKJV)

Epistle: Romans 13:8-14 (NKJV)

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 (NKJV)

PRAYER FOR SERMON:

Almighty God, may Your Word be a Lamp on our feet, and a Light on our paths (Psalm 119:105 NKJV). Help me to decrease so that You may increase (paraphrased, John 3:30).

SERMON “ ” by Reverend Paula Cooper

PRAYER: (BCW, pg. 62)

One: Now to the Ruler of all worlds, Undying, Invisible, the Only God, be honor and glory forever and ever!

All: Amen

***HYMN** “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer” *GtG* 439

- 1. O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
all within me bless God's name;
bless the Savior, and forget not
all God's mercies to proclaim.**
- 2. God forgives all your transgressions,
all diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
and with you so kindly deals.**
- 3. Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
like the pity of a father
has the Lord's compassion been.**
- 4. As it was without beginning,
so it lasts without an end;
to their children's children ever
shall God's righteousness extend:**
- 5. Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
And are steadfast in God's way;
Unto those who still remember
The commandments and obey.**
- 6. Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!**

Words: *The Book of Psalms*, 1871, alt.

Music: STUTTGART, Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715;

harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847, alt.

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UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(THE NICENE CREED)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only Son of God,
Eternally Begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from True God,
Begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
He came down from Heaven.
was Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became Truly Human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into Heaven
and is seated at the Right Hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in Glory to Judge the living and the dead,
and His Kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 it is 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.**

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)."

Reflection

***THE DOXOLOGY** GtG #607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.**

*TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988; © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg
MUSIC (OLD HUNDREDTH, LM): Genevan Psalter, 1531.
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**Prayer of Dedication*

All: Our Sovereign Lord, everything we own comes from above. Please receive these tithes and offerings that we bring to You from our grateful and joyful hearts. Bless these gifts to further Your work and the mission of the church. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

***HYMN** “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation” *GtG* 503

- 1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.**
- 2. Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.**
- 3. When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt. © 1979 Hope Publishing Company.
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QUANTA QUALIA, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681; harm. La Feillee's *Methode du*
plain-chant, 1808. *Public Domain.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (*BCW*, pg. 125)

*One: Jesus said: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear
My Voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with
them, and they with Me. O taste and see that the Lord is Good! Happy
are all who find refuge in God!*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (BCW, pgs. 130-132)

One: The Lord be with you...

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Holy God, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, with joy we praise You and give thanks to Your Name.

You Commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good.

You made us in Your Image to live with one another in love.

You gave us the Breath of Life and Freedom to choose Your Way.

You promised Yourself in Covenant with Abraham and Sarah,

told us Your Purpose in Commandments through Moses,

and called for justice in the cry of prophets.

Through long generations You have been Faithful and Kind to all Your children.

Great and Wonderful are Your Works, Lord God Almighty.

Your Ways are Just and True. Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful

praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the

faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the Glory of

Your Name:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,

Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory.

Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest.

One: We praise You, Most Holy God, for sending Your Only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told Your Story, healed the sick, and was a Friend of sinners. Obeying You, He took up His Cross and died that we might live.

(continued...)

All: We praise You that He overcame death and is Risen to Rule the world. He is still the Friend of sinners. We trust Him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when He comes in Glory, we will celebrate victory with Him.

One: We give You thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before He died, took Bread, and after giving thanks to You, He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

All: Take, eat. This is My Body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

One: In the same way He took the Cup, saying:

All: This Cup is the New Covenant sealed in My Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me.

One: Remembering all Your Mighty and Merciful Acts, we break Bread and share One Cup giving thanks for Your Saving Love in Jesus Christ.

All: As You raised our Lord from death and call us with Him from death to life, we give ourselves to You to live for Him in joy and grateful praise.

One: Praise to You, Lord Jesus:

All: Dying You destroyed our death, rising You restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in Glory.

*One: Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your Gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, Redeemed by His Blood. Send us out in the Power of the Spirit to live for others,
as Christ lived for us, announcing His Death for the sins of the world, and telling His Resurrection to all people and nations.*

(continued...)

By Your Spirit draw us together into One Body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain His glad and faithful people until we feast with Him in Glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all Glory and Honor are Yours, Almighty God, Forever and Ever.

All: Amen.

---- Distribution of the Elements ----

(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.)

UNISON PRAYER *(BCW, pg. 157):*

Loving God, You Graciously feed us, who have received these Holy Mysteries, with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation. May we who have received this Sacrament, be strengthened in Your Service; we who have sung Your Praises tell of Your Glory and Truth; we who have seen the Greatness of Your Love see You face to face in Your Kingdom. For You have made us Your own people by the Death and Resurrection of Your Son our Lord and by the Life-giving Power of Your Spirit. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “When Israel Was Going Forth” *GtG 58*

- 1. When Israel was going forth
from out of Egypt’s land,
and Jacob’s house from foreign tongues
they could not understand,**

(continued...)

2. to be God's holy dwelling place,
God's choice on Judah fell,
and there as God's dominion took
God's chosen Israel.
3. The sea beheld and fled away;
the Jordan stopped its flow.
The mountains skipped like rams; the hills
like lambs skipped to and fro.
4. O sea, why did you run away?
O Jordan, why turn tide?
You mounts and hills, like rams and lambs,
why leap on every side?
5. O tremble, earth, before the Lord;
the God of Jacob fear;
God made the rock a water pool,
the stone a fountain clear.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

Call to Worship: Psalm 149:1-5, 9c, NKJV.

Call to Confession: 1 John 1:5-7, NKJV.

Prayer for Sermon: Psalm 119:105 and John 3:30, NKJV.

*Unison Prayer of Confession; the Assurance of Pardon; Prayer after Sermon;
Invitation to the Table; Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayer after
Communion used by permission from Book of Common Worship, © 1993
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The Invitation to the Offering: 2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV

GtG = “Glory To God” Hymnal

BCW= “Book of Common Worship”

*NKJV= “New King James Version” of the **Holy Bible***

**** Please stand if you are able.***