WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are so happy to have you join us for this Lord's Day Service. We acknowledge this Sunday as the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP ***(Psalm 78:1-4)***

One: Give ear, O people, to My Teachings. Incline your ears to the words of My Mouth.

ALL: We open our lips in parables; we utter dark sayings from of old.

One: These are things we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

ALL: We will not hide them from our children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Dear God, as we enter Your House of worship and welcome this season of thankfulness, we lift our hearts and gratitude to You for Your Unconditional Love and Blessings bestowed upon us! In the Matchless Name of Jesus, we pray, Amen!

All: Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** "We Praise You, O God" *GtG* 612

1. **We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;**
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2. **We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;**
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

(continued…)

3. **With voices united our praises we offer**
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.
Music: KREMSER, *Neder-landtsch Gendenck-Clanck*, 1626;
harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877
Public Domain

CALL TO CONFESSION ***(Hebrews 4:15-16)***

One: For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy and find Grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins to God and to ourselves.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ***(Psalm 51:1-2)***

ALL: Have mercy upon [us], O God, According to Your Lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your Tender Mercies, Blot out our transgressions. [2] Wash [us] thoroughly from [our iniquities], And cleanse [us] from [our sins].

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ***(Isaiah 43:25)***

One: The LORD says, "I, even I, Am He Who blots out your transgressions for My Own Sake; And I will not remember your sins."

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.

(credits next page)

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	Joshua	24:1-3, 14-25	*(NKJV)*
EPISTLE	I Thessalonians	4:13-18	*(NKJV)*
GOSPEL	Matthew	25:1-13	*(NKJV)*

PRAYER FOR SERMON

One: Almighty God, may Your Word be a Lamp for our feet and a Light for our paths (Psalm 119:105 NKJV). Help me to decrease so that Your Word will be heard and increase in our lives, bringing about our transformation (paraphrased, John 3:30).

SERMON "Who or What Will We Serve" by Reverend Paula Cooper

PRAYER OF PRAISE

One: Now to the Ruler of all worlds, Undying, Invisible, the Only God, be Honor and Glory Forever and Ever! Amen. (BCW pg. 62).

All: Amen

***HYMN** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" GtG 687

1. **Our God, our help in ages past,**
   our hope for years to come,
   our shelter from the stormy blast,
   and our eternal home:

2. **Beneath the shadow of thy throne**
   thy saints have dwelt secure;
   sufficient is thine arm alone,
   and our defense is sure.

3. **Before the hills in order stood,**
   or earth received its frame,
   from everlasting thou art God,
   to endless years the same.

4. **A thousand ages in thy sight**
   are like an evening gone,
   short as the watch that ends the night
   before the rising sun.

5. **Time, like an ever rolling stream,**
   bears all our years away;
   they fly forgotten, as a dream
   dies at the opening day.

6. **Our God, our help in ages past,**
   our hope for years to come,
   be thou our guard while life shall last,
   and our eternal home.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC(ST. ANNE, CM): Attr. William Croft, 1708
Public Domain

***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Brief Statement of Faith (1st Part)*

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.

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully Human, Fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the Reign of God:
preaching Good News to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the Gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving His Life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating His Sinless Life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to Life Eternal.

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: "Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart (1 Chronicles 29:9)."

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.

(credits next page…)

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

****Unison Prayer of Dedication***

Dear Gracious and Loving God, You have provided us with so many blessings over the years; may our gifts of tithes and offerings, and ourselves, be pleasing in Your Sight to further Your ministry and the mission of the Church. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** "Soon and Very Soon" *GtG* 384

1. **Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.**
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
   Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

2. **No more crying there: we are going to see the King.**
   No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
   No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
   Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

3. **No more dying there: we are going to see the King.**
   No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
   No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
   Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

4. **Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.**
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
   Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

TEXT: Andrae Crouch, 1976;
MUSIC(SOON AND VERY SOON): Andrae Crouch, 1976;
© 1976 Crouch Music and Bud John Songs (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com).
Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11178434 / #20702248. All rights reserved.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**