

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 139)*

One: “Lord, you have examined me and you know me. You see me, whether I am working or resting.”

All: “You are all around me on every side. You protect me with your power.”

One: The Lord our God is with us to guide and provide.

All: So let us open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds, to be filled with God in the spirit of worship.

***OPENING HYMN** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” GtG 39

One: Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

All: there is no shadow of turning with thee.

One: Thou changest not;

All: thy compassions they fail not.

One: As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!

All: Great is thy faithfulness!

One: Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All: All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

One: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

**All: join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

One: 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:

All: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

One: Great is thy faithfulness!

All: Great is thy faithfulness!

One: Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All: **All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us, O God, for all those times when we shut our eyes to your faithfulness, when we close our ears to your call, when we shut off our minds and miss your insights; when we close our hearts to your still, small voice within. Have mercy upon us, O God. Forgive our shutting ourselves off from you. Open us up to your presence and your word. Touch us by your Spirit, and remake us in the image of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Isaiah 44)*

One: The Lord says, "I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."
All: **In the name of Jesus Christ we approach God in confidence. For through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we are restored and forgiven.**

***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

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 28:10-19

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Grazing the Rung of Jacob's Ladder" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Contemporary)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(The Apostles' Creed)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Startling God...
People: ...awaken us to your presence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

In gratitude we bring ourselves to you, O God. You have blessed us in ways known and unknown. Receive our offering of thanksgiving and our pledge of ourselves. Use us as your instruments to bring about the fruit of your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Nearer, My God, to Thee”

One: Nearer, my God, to Thee,

All: Nearer to Thee!

One: E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me;

Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,

All: Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

One: Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,

Darkness be over me, My rest a stone;

All: Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee!

One: There let the way appear

All: Steps unto heaven:

One: All that Thou sendest me In mercy given:

All: Angels to beckon me, Nearer, my God, to Thee!

One: Then, with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise,

Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;

So by my woes to be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,

All: Nearer to Thee!

One: Or if on joyful wing Cleaving the sky,

Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly,

Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,

All: Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

(Public Domain)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: God has blessed you with an abundance of grace;

God has claimed you in Jesus Christ.

All: We will proclaim God's faithfulness;

we will share our experience and learn from others.

One: God goes with you wherever you dwell;

God blesses you, and others through you.

All: We will abide in the shadow of the Almighty;

how awesome is the presence of God in all places!

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

Today's version of the Apostles' Creed is reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

The Charge and Blessing is reprinted, with permission, from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1992 by The Pilgrim Press.