

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 95)*

One: "Come, let us bow down and worship."  
All: **"Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"**  
One: "For the Lord is our God."  
All: **"We are the people God cares for, the flock for which the Lord provides."**  
One: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" GtG 619

One: Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
All: **glad of heart your carols raise;**  
One: ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia!  
All: **Alleluia!**  
**Praise the Maker all your days!**

One: Praise God for the grace and favor  
shown our forebears in distress;  
All: **God is still the same forever,**  
**slow to chide, and swift to bless.**

One: Alleluia!  
All: **Alleluia!**  
**Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

One: Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame,  
All: **gladly all our burdens bearing,**  
One: still to countless years the same.  
Alleluia!  
All: **Alleluia!**  
**All within me, praise God's name!**

One: Angels, teach us adoration;  
you behold God face to face.

**All: Sun and moon and all creation,  
Dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia!**

One: Alleluia!

**Unison: Praise with us the God of grace!**

*(Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center © 1974)*

#### **\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we come before you, calling upon your mercy and asking for your forgiveness. We have strayed as your people and as individuals. Though your way be clear, we have not chosen it. Though our task is certain, we forfeit our responsibility. You call to us, and we do not listen. You instruct us, and we too quickly forget. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Transform our hearts that we might truly love you and serve you. Make us your people in thought and word and deed. For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

#### **\*SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Here is good news for everyone:  
God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love,  
and gives us forgiveness and grace,  
a free gift from a generous God!

**All: This is the good news we believe in our hearts  
and confess with our mouths:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Unison: Thanks be to God!**

#### **\*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**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING** Genesis 32:22-31

#### **SERMON** "Rasslin' Match" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*AFFIRMATION 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.**

*(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor: Save us, O Lord...**

**People: ...we come to you.**

**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*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Thank you, God. Thank you for your grace and your presence. Thank you for teaching us and leading us. Thank you for providing for us day and night. Make of our lives songs of gratitude. Make our gifts useful to your purposes. And remake us in the image of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For it is in his name we pray. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” GtG 833

One: O Love that wilt not let me go,

**All: I rest my weary soul in thee;**

One: I give thee back the life I owe,

**All: that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.**

One: O Light that followest all my way,

**All: I yield my flickering torch to thee;**

One: my heart restores its borrowed ray,

**All: that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.**

One: O Joy that seekest me through pain,

**All: I cannot close my heart to thee;**

One: I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain

**All: that morn shall tearless be.**

One: O Cross that liftest up my head,

**All: I dare not ask to fly from thee;**

One: I lay in dust life's glory dead,

**All: and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.**

*(Public Domain)*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**People: ...Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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