

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O sing to the Lord a new song.

All: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: From dawn to dawn sing praises to the Lord.

All: For the grace of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

***OPENING HYMN** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" GtG 435

One: There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.

**All: There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

One: There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.

**All: There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

One: For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

**All: If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious Lord, we come before you humbly, for we know we do not deserve your mercy. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. Out of your bountiful mercy, forgive us, gracious Lord. Return our hearts to you, and help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace though Jesus Christ. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Psalm 103)*

One: The love of God is from forever to always, sure and never-failing.

All: **“The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love.”**

One: “As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is God’s love for those who have reverence for God.”

All: **“As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sins from us.”**

One: So rejoice and sing of God’s love and glory!

All: **For in Jesus Christ we are 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 Matthew 15:21-28

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Out of Bounds?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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.**

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.

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Loving God,...
People: ...hear our prayer.

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*

**From your abundant grace, O Lord, we bring these gifts. Responding
to your tender mercy, we offer ourselves. Use us, and these offerings, to
share your love and your grace with the world. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Help Us Accept Each Other” GtG 754

One: Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

**All: teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.**

One: Be present, Lord, among us

**All: and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.**

One: Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.

**All: Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.**

One: Let Your acceptance change us,

**All: so that we may be moved in living situations
to do the truth in love;**

One: to practice your acceptance

**All: until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.**

One: Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,

**All: we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:**

One: renew us with your Spirit;

All: Lord, free us; make us one!

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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