

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 46)*

One: "God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

All: **"So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths..."**

One: "...Even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence."

All: **"The Lord Almighty is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge."**

***OPENING HYMN** "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" GtG 816

One: If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,

All: **God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.**

One: Who trusts in God's unchanging love

All: **builds on the rock that nought can move.**

One: Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.

All: **No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.**

One: Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,

All: **but do thine own part faithfully.**

One: Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.

All: **God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God, you say you will lead, but we do not follow. You say you will provide, but we'd prefer to fend for ourselves. You say you forgive, but we feel the need to earn your love instead. Forgive us our foolishness, gracious God. Help us to take you at your word, trust your love, and rely upon your strength, in the manner of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from I John 4)*

One: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven."
All: **"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through him."**
One: So rejoice and be glad and believe in the good news!
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. Amen! Alleluia!**

***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 45:1-15

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "In the Darkness Offstage" 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.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Lord, help us.

People: We trust in 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*

**Gracious Lord,
you have given us more mercy than we could imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts
as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound
to embrace all those in need. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Be Still, My Soul" GtG 819

One: Be still, my soul:

All: the Lord is on thy side.

One: Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

**All: Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.**

One: Be still, my soul:

**All: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

One: Be still, my soul:

**All: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.**

One: Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;

All: all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

One: Be still, my soul:

**All: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

One: Be still, my soul:

**All: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.**

One: Be still, my soul:

**All: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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