

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.
All: Praise the Lord!
One: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
All: Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN** “The God of Abraham Praise” GtG 49 (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*)

One: The God of Abraham praise,
All: who reigns enthroned above,
One: the Ancient of Eternal Days,
All: the God of love!
One: The Lord, the great I Am,
by earth and heaven confessed,
All: we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.

One: Your spirit still flows free,
high surging where it will.
All: In prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.

One: Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
All: deep writ upon the human heart
by your strong hand.

One: You have eternal life
implanted in the soul;
All: your love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.

One: We praise you, living God!
All: We praise your holy name:
One: the first, the last, beyond all thought,

All: and still the same!

(Public Domain)

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy,
we have resisted the way you would have us go.
We have doubted you in the face of affliction
and ignored you when things go well for us.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for
more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink
from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.
We ask your forgiveness,
and seek the renewal of our covenant
with you and with one another.
In Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: We remind ourselves of the good news we have heard and in which we believe: that the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in constant love.

All: If we confess our sins, God is quick to forgive and to restore us to new life.

One: So let us rejoice and be glad, proclaiming once again the good news.

All: That in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 Exodus 2:23-3:15

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Burning, But Not Burned Up" 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.**

**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: Merciful God...
People: ...hear our prayer.

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*

**Holy God of holy ground,
like Moses, we question our fitness to serve
heaven's purposes on earth.
Overcome our qualms with the assurance
of your presence.
Bless our offerings of self and substance
that, through them,
we may do your will
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "May the God of Hope Go with Us" GtG 765

One: May the God of hope go with us every day,
All: filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
One: May the God of justice speed us on our way,
All: bringing light and hope to every land and race.
One: Praying,
All: let us work for peace;
One: singing,
All: share our joy with all;
One: working
All: for a world that's new,
One: faithful
All: when we hear Christ's call.

(Words by Alvin Schutmaat, 1984)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: God's steadfast love is with us wherever we go.
All: We will bless God's holy name every day.
One: The God our ancestors trusted has a mission for us.
All: God sees the misery of many in the midst of abundance.
One: God sends us to our sisters and brothers in need.
All: We are here to respond to one another's cries.
One: Live daily in God's realm, with confidence and hope.
All: We mean to live as children of the heavenly realm.

One: The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.
And let the gathered people of God say...

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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