

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give praise to God!

All: How merciful is the God of our ancestors!

One: We have gathered to sing praise to our Deliverer.

**All: We are here to be claimed again by our God.
We have assembled to express our gratitude.**

One: Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves; it is God who forgives; it is God who delivers.

All: We Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” GtG 52**

One: When Israel was in Egypt’s land,

All: let my people go;

One: oppressed so hard they could not stand,

All: let my people go!

One: Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt’s land;
tell old Pharaoh:

All: let my people go!

One: “Thus saith the Lord,” bold Moses said,

All: “Let my people go!

One: If not, I’ll smite your first-born dead.

All: Let my people go!”

One: “No more shall they in bondage toil:

All: let my people go!

One: Let them come out with Egypt’s spoil:

All: let my people go!”

One: O let us all from bondage flee;

All: let my people go!

One: And let us all in Christ be free:

All: let my people go!

One: Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:

All: let my people go!

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,

**we confess that we have been ungrateful and insensitive,
cutting ourselves off from you and from other people.**

We do not see our own iniquity.

We do not sense any wickedness in our own ways.

We seek to measure life by our own standards, not yours.

We do not recognize our own lies

or the oppression we inflict on people by whose labors we benefit.

Forgive us yet again, gracious God.

**Touch our hearts and awaken our consciences,
that we may receive pardon and new life. Amen.**

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The abundance of God's steadfast love is always available to those ready to receive it.

All: The God of covenant claims us as beloved children, redeemed and forgiven.

One: People of God, God is merciful and gracious, and our sins are forgiven.

**All: Reconciled to the God who loves us,
let us live and love through Christ our Lord.**

***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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Exodus 12:1-14
Exodus 14:19-31

SERMON 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.**

**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: God in your mercy...

People: ...hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Contemporary Version*)

**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*

**Thank you, God, for guiding us through life.
You have blessed us far beyond our deserving.
We are grateful for all we have learned
when we dared to trust you in difficult times.
Use these experiences to your glory.
Use our offerings to prosper your mission among us and beyond us.
Use our lives to communicate your love and justice
to all who long for the fullness of life you intend. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "The Church of Christ in Every Age" GtG 320

One: The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

All: Across the world, across the street,

**the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**

One: Then let the servant church arise,
**All: a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

One: For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
**All: and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**

One: We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
**All: to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Walk in the strength and confidence that God guides your feet.
God's Spirit goes with you to teach and lead.
**All: We will remember the abundance of God's love.
We will share the heritage we have received.**

One: Live with gladness in God's richest blessings.
Live with generosity for the sake of all people.
**All: We will live for God,
showing mercy and
loving one another.**

One: May the God who protects and defends
keep you in safety, mercy, and love.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
And let the gathered people of God say...

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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