

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020  
First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- One: Come and worship, for Christ is Lord and lives in you and in me.  
All: **Come and worship, for God is good and invites us to accept God's love.**  
One: Come and worship, for the Spirit dwells in our midst, empowering us towards newness and wholeness.  
All: **We come to worship the Lord our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN "Lead On, O King Eternal!" GtG 269**

- One: Lead on, O King eternal!  
The day of march has come;  
All: **henceforth in fields of conquest  
your tents shall be our home.**  
One: Through days of preparation  
your grace has made us strong,  
All: **and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.**  
One: Lead on, O King eternal,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace;  
All: **for not with swords' loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy  
the heavenly kingdom comes.**  
One: Lead on, O King eternal:  
All: **we follow, not with fears,**  
One: for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er your face appears;  
All: **your cross is lifted o'er us;  
we journey in its light.**  
One: The crown awaits the conquest;  
All: **lead on, O God of might!**

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**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have conformed our lives  
to the ways of the world  
and not the ways of your kingdom.  
We have lived for ourselves,  
and apart from you.  
We exalt possessions and power,  
when you alone are to be exalted.  
We think of ourselves too highly  
and regard others as lowly.  
We turn from our neighbors,  
and refuse to bear the burdens of others.  
We let conflicts prevail over grace  
and divisions over harmony.  
We ignore the pain of the world,  
and pass by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.  
In your great mercy forgive our sins  
and free us from self-centeredness,  
that we may discern and choose your will.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The mercy of the Lord  
is from everlasting to everlasting.  
All: **With confidence we declare, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven.**  
One: May the God of mercy,  
who forgives us all our sins,  
strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
help us to live in grace.  
All: **Amen.**

**\*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 1:8-2:10

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "How Will We Answer the Shouts...and Cries?" 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:** Lord, in your mercy...  
**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*

**Almighty God,  
you took a baby from the Nile  
and used him to lead your people to the  
promised land.  
Take all that we offer  
and use it for your people in this land and  
throughout your world.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "O God of Every Nation" GtG 756

One: O God of every nation,  
of every race and land,  
**All: redeem the whole creation  
with your almighty hand.**  
One: Where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
**All: in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.**

One: From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way,  
**All: deliver every nation,  
eternal God, we pray.**

One: Lord, strengthen those who labor  
**All: that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber,  
from dread of war's increase;**  
One: when hope and courage falter,  
**All: your still small voice be heard;**  
One: with faith that none can alter,  
**All: your servants undergird.**

One: Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war  
**All: shall cease,**  
One: when hatred and division  
**All: give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when truth and justice reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious  
o'er all the world's domain.**

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#### **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
**People: ...Amen.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

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