

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord is good!
All: God's steadfast love endures forever.
One: Remember again the wonderful works of God.
All: God has blessed us beyond all deserving.
One: Rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.
All: We come to worship the one true God.

***OPENING HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" GtG 39**

One: Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
All: there is no shadow of turning with thee.
One: Thou changest not;
All: thy compassions they fail not.
One: As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness!
All: Great is thy faithfulness!
One: Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All: All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

One: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
All: join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

One: Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
All: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
One: Great is thy faithfulness!
All: Great is thy faithfulness!
One: Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

**All: All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, in spite of your faithfulness, we have chosen other gods. We have exchanged your glory for the gilded idols of success and money and status: an image of worldly favor, which is nothing. Be merciful to your people today and every day, when we stray and when we return, at our best and at our worst. We have abandoned the pathway you desire for us. We confess our sin and plead for your forgiveness. We turn around and turn back to you for mercy, pardon, and peace. Forgive us. Reclaim us. And renew us as your people for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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: “God does not keep on rebuking and is not angry forever.”

All: **“The Lord does not punish us as we deserve or repay us for our sins and wrongs.”**

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! Alleluia! 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 READINGS Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6,19-23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “We Would Do Well to...” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Hear us, O God...
People: ...your mercy is great.

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, we thank you for your blessings to us. We bask in your bounty. We rejoice in your mercy. Accept our thanks and praise. Accept also the offering of our gifts. By your wisdom and your power, use us, and our gifts, to share the joy of your kingdom, the peace of your presence, and the grace of your good news. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" GtG 707

One: Take thou our minds, dear Lord,

All: we humbly pray;

One: give us the mind of Christ each passing day;

**All: teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.**

One: Take thou our hearts, O Christ,

All: they are thine own;

One: come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;

**All: help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.**

One: Take thou our wills, Most High!

**All: Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;**

One: guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;

All: guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

One: Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;

All: through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.

One: We yield ourselves to thee:

All: time, talents, all;

One: we hear,

All: and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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