

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 70)*

One: Rejoice and be glad!

All: For God is our salvation.

One: Rejoice and be glad!

All: For God is great.

OPENING HYMN “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!” GtG 804

One: Rejoice, ye pure in heart!

All: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

One: Your festal banner wave on high,

All: The cross of Christ your King.

One: Rejoice!

All: Rejoice!

Unison: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

One: With voice as full and strong as
ocean’s surging praise,

**All: send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days.**

Unison: Rejoice!

One: Yes, on through life's long path,

All: still chanting as ye go,

One: from youth to age, by night and day,

All: in gladness and in woe:

Unison: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

One: At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;

**All: the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.**

Unison: Rejoice!

One: Then on, ye pure in heart!
All: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
One: Your festal banner wave on high,
All: The cross of Christ your King.
One: Rejoice!
All: Rejoice!
Unison: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We sing of your reign, O Lord, but our lives fall short of demonstrating our commitment to you. We are blind to your presence among us. We are deaf to your call to serve. We are mute in response to your glory. Forgive us, O Lord. Touch us by your mercy and fill us with your grace, that we might celebrate your life among us and give ourselves to you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers,
rejoice and be glad,
for God is mighty to save
and comes to you in peace
to forgive, restore, and strengthen you
eternally in Christ.
All: Thanks be to God!

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 Matthew 25:1-13

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Wise? or Foolish? or Simply Low on Fuel?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
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.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Eternal 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*

O great and loving God, we give you thanks for your extravagant blessings, and for the love for justice and the gift of generosity you have given your faithful people. Bless the gifts we offer, and with them reveal your righteousness as we await the coming of your peace. Amen.

SENDING

CLOSING HYMN “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers” GtG 362

One: Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;

**All: the evening is advancing
and darker night is near.**

One: The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh.

**All: Up, watch with expectation;
at midnight comes the cry.**

One: See that your lamps are burning;

All: replenish them with oil;

One: look now for your salvation,

All: the end of sin and toil.

One: The marriage feast is waiting;

All: the gates wide open stand;

One: arise, O heirs of glory;

All: the Bridegroom is at hand!

One: Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;

**All: arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this shadowed sphere!**

One: With hearts and hands uplifted,

**All: we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,**

Unison: and ever be with thee!

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CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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