

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from I Thessalonians 5)*

One: Clothe yourselves with faith and love;  
All: **to encourage one another and build new life.**  
One: The Lord is with us!  
All: **Let us worship God.**

**OPENING HYMN** “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” GtG 716

One: God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store,  
All: **nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door:**  
One: gifted by you,  
All: **we turn to you,**  
One: offering up ourselves in praise;  
All: **thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.**

One: Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All: **all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.**

One: Now direct our daily labor,  
All: **lest we strive for self alone.**  
One: Born with talents,  
All: **make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.**

One: Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
All: **gain through powers your grace conferred:**  
One: ours to use for home and kindred,  
All: **and to spread the gospel word.**

One: Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,

**All: healing,**

One: teaching,

**All: and reclaiming,**

One: serving you

**All: by loving all.**

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## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Giver of good gifts,**

**grant us now the capacity to hear both  
your commendation and your word of judgment.**

**We have hidden the gifts you entrust to us.**

**We have wasted the resources of the earth for our self-indulgence.**

**We live in darkness rather than in the light,  
ignoring your purposes and your needy people.**

**O God, save us from our blind pursuit of the wrong goals  
and our careless disregard of your guidance.**

**Have mercy on us,  
for we are weak and prone to disobedience.**

**Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness,  
that we might turn to you again,**

**walk in the light,  
and live in equity and peace;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers,  
when we acknowledge our human limitations  
and turn to depend upon our everlasting God,  
we grow wise in heart to God's commands.

**All: By the grace of God we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and we need not fear—  
for he lived for us, he died for us,  
he was raised for us and prays for us.**

One: So believe the promise of his call and his claim:

**All: We are freed for love and grace and life,  
for our sins are forgiven by the mercy of Christ. 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** Matthew 25:14-30

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**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 the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
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)

## RECEPTION of NEW MEMBER

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of grace...  
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*

For all that you are and all that you do,  
we give you thanks, good Lord our God.  
We wait in hope for the coming of your realm  
and offer our gifts to further your kingdom on earth:  
to share your love with others,  
that all may enter into your eternal joy.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### SENDING

### CLOSING HYMN "Come, Labor On" GtG 719

One: Come, labor on.

All: Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain  
while all around us waves the golden grain?

One: And to each servant does the Master say,

All: "Go work today."

One: Come, labor on.

**All: Claim the high calling angels cannot share;  
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.**

One: Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.

**All: The night draws nigh.**

One: Come, labor on.

**All: Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here.**

One: Though feeble agents,

**All: may we all fulfill  
God's righteous will.**

One: Come, labor on.

**All: No time for rest, till glows the western sky,  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,**

One: and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,

**All: "Well done, well done!"**

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#### **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**People: ...Amen.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

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