

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: We come from different places, different homes and families.
All: We come to listen and learn, to pray and offer praises to you, O God.
One: We are grateful that we can gather together to worship you, our Lord and our God.
All: Focus us on our time together. Open up our hearts and minds that we might hear you speak to us, and in hearing, that we might respond with grace in gratitude.
One: Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN “In an Age of Twisted Values” GtG 345**

- One: In an age of twisted values
All: we have lost the truth we need.
One: In sophisticated language
All: we have justified our greed.
One: By our struggle for possessions
All: we have robbed the poor and weak.
One: Hear our cry and heal our nation;
All: your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.
- One: We have built discrimination
on our prejudice and fear.
**All: Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty
if we hold resentments dear.**
One: For communities divided
by the walls of class and race,
**All: hear our cry and heal our nation;
show us, Lord, your love and grace.**
- One: When our families are broken,
All: when our homes are full of strife,
One: when our children are bewildered,
All: when they lose their way in life,

One: when we fail to give the aged
all the care we know they need,
**All: hear our cry and heal our nation;
help us show more love, we plead.**

One: We who hear your word so often
choose so rarely to obey.
**All: Turn us from our willful wandering;
give us truth to light our way.**

One: In the power of your Spirit
come to cleanse us, make us new;
**All: hear our cry and heal our nation
till our nation honors you.**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgive us, gracious God, for we have distorted your word.
We assume we know your message without careful listening.
We presume to speak your word without discerning the Spirit.
We do not recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day.
We follow pseudo-gods we create.
We engage in habits that destroy.
We hold on to prejudices that divide.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Lead us, make us new, and speak to us again.
Remove our desire to heed false prophets,
and show us your way.
In the name of the One who is your way, we pray. Amen.**

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The One who made us and knows our every thought,
pardons and strengthens all who return to God.
**All: The God who hears us now, heals us now,
and forgives us all our sin.**
One: We have been redeemed through Jesus Christ,
God's Son, our Savior,
**All: and in him we are renewed and restored.
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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Mark 1:21-28

SERMON "How True?!" 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 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.**

**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: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

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*

**Most merciful and gracious God, all that we have is a gift of your grace.
You call us, you name us, you watch over us with care. We offer now our
gifts in response to your goodness. Use them and us for good wherever there
is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Christ Jesus,
your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Be Thou My Vision" GtG 450

One: Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

All: naught be all else to me, save that thou art;

One: thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping,

All: thy presence my light.

One: Be thou my wisdom,

All: and thou my true Word;

One: I ever with thee

All: and thou with me, Lord;

One: thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;

All: raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

One: Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;

All: thou, mine inheritance, now and always;

One: thou and thou only, first in my heart,

All: High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

One: High King of Heaven, my victory won,

All: may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

One: Heart of my own heart,

**All: whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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