

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We bring our praise to glorify God.
All: We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.
One: God calls us by name and gives us new names.
All: We are summoned to faithfulness.
One: Let the ends of the earth worship the Creator.
All: We will praise the God of all nations and all peoples.

***OPENING HYMN** “The God of Abraham Praise” GtG 49 (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*)

One: The God of Abraham praise,
All: who reigns enthroned above,
One: the Ancient of Eternal Days,
All: the God of love!
One: The Lord, the great I Am,
by earth and heaven confessed,
All: we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.

One: Your spirit still flows free,
high surging where it will.
All: In prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.

One: Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
All: deep writ upon the human heart
by your strong hand.

One: You have eternal life
implanted in the soul;
All: your love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.

One: We praise you, living God!

All: We praise your holy name:
One: the first, the last, beyond all thought,
All: and still the same!

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world – so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life’s meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. O God, we seek forgiveness for failing to follow your ways, and we confess our need for you.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The Lord is indeed a God of mercy and compassion. We know this for certain because of Jesus Christ.

All: In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner and loves the world.

One: So let us hear and believe that good news once again.

All: For by the grace of God we are loved and accepted, forgiven and restored through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
Mark 8:31-38

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON 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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Holy God...
People: ...hear our prayer.

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*

Source of all goodness, what can we give that has not already been given to us? Surely no gift of ours can repay Christ's gift of love. Therefore we offer ourselves, with thanksgiving for new life in the Spirit, and place before you what we have in response to your love. Accept our offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Will You Come and Follow Me" GtG 726

One: "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?"

All: Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

One: Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;

All: will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

One: "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?"

All: Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

One: Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?

All: Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

One: "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?"

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

**All: Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"**

One: "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?"

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

All: Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go

**where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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