

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 25)*

One: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;"

All: "my God, I put my trust in you."

One: "Show me your ways, O Lord,"

All: "and teach me your paths."

One: "Lead me in your truth and teach me,"

All: "for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long."

One: We come to worship the God of all grace and mercy.

***OPENING HYMN** "When We Are Tested" GtG 783

One: When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,

**All: nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

One: When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,

**All: lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

One: When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,

**All: teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

One: When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,

**All: Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy,
we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways,
but according to our own.
We muddle along in our self-serving schemes
rather than waiting on your word.
We follow the path of least resistance
without seeking your higher way.
We condone violence,
participate in systems of injustice,
and use power to our own advantage
at the expense of others.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are tempted to follow paths
other than those you set before us.
Help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Psalm 25)*

One: "Because the Lord is righteous and good, the Lord teaches sinners the path they should follow."
All: **"God leads the humble in the right way and teaches them God's will."**
One: "Teach me your ways, O Lord. Make them known to me."
All: **"Teach me to live according to your truth. For you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you."**
One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the cross of Christ we discern the height and length and depth and breadth of God's love and forgiveness.
All: **So let us rejoice in the good news, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved. 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 READING Mark 1:9-15

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “I Love You; Now Go to Hell” 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.**

**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.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of grace and guidance...

People: ...we lift up our hearts and lives to you.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

God of steadfast love and faithfulness,

**we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways.
Accept our offerings
as tokens of our commitment to you.
Enhance their effectiveness
in accordance with your will,
and use them for your own good purposes
in the church and in all creation.
May all that we do be a clear sign
of our willingness to respond to the call of Christ.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together. Please drink the cup as you are served.)

Prayer

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN "How Firm a Foundation" GtG 463

One: How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

**All: What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

One: "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,

All: for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

One: I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,

All: upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

One: "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

**All: for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

One: "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,

All: my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;

One: the flame shall not hurt thee;

**All: I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

One: "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not,

All: I will not desert to its foes;

One: that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

All: I'll never,

One: no, never,

All: no, never forsake."

(Public Domain)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

The Prayer of Dedication is used by permission from *When We Gather Year B* by James G. Kirk. Copyright 1984 The Geneva Press.