

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We call on your steadfast love and mercy, O God.  
**All: We are eager to know the God who loves us.**  
One: Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour.  
**All: Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us.**  
**Unison: We come to worship the Lord our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN “Now the Green Blade Rises” GtG 247**

One: Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
**All: wheat that in dark earth  
many days has lain;**  
One: love lives again,  
that with the dead has been;  
**All: love is come again  
like wheat arising green.**

One: In the grave they laid him,  
**All: love by hatred slain,**  
One: thinking that he would  
never wake again,  
**All: laid in the earth like grain  
that sleeps unseen;**  
One: love is come again  
**All: like wheat arising green.**

One: Forth he came at Easter  
like the risen grain,  
**All: he that for three days  
in the grave had lain;**  
One: raised from the dead,

**All: my living Lord is seen;**  
One: love is come again  
**All: like wheat arising green.**

One: When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving, or in pain,  
**All: your touch can call us back  
to life again;**  
One: fields of our hearts that dead  
and bare have been:  
**All: love is come again  
like wheat arising green.**

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**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The Lord hears our confession and is eager to forgive. Take to heart the good news; believe it, live it.  
**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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** John 12:20-33

**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 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.**

**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!"**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** Our prayers we lift to you.  
**People:** **Glory be to you, O God.**

#### **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 giving and forgiving God, you provide for our every need. You open our lips to offer you praise. You strengthen our hands to respond to Christ's call. With hearts, hands, and voices renewed by your Spirit, we place now before you our commitment to serve. May our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" GtG 432

One: How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
**All: when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word**  
One: and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
**All: that you are Lord of all  
and will not let us fall.**

One: But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
**All: if worldly pressures fray the mind**  
One: and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
**All: our inward life repair.**

One: We marvel how your saints became  
in hindrances more sure:  
**All: whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,**

One: and by our faults obscure  
**All: your power to cleanse and cure.**

One: In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
**All: together or alone,**  
One: in old routines or ventures new,  
**All: may we not cease to look to you:**  
One: the cross you hung upon,  
**All: all you endeavored, done.**

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### **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: God writes the law of love and service within us and empowers us to live according to that law.

**All: We have experienced God's presence together.  
That presence will sustain us as we scatter.**

One: We are people of God, accepted and loved.

**All: We are followers of Christ, commissioned for service.**

One: Where Christ leads, we will follow.

**All: Where our service is needed, we will go.**

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

**All: ...Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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