

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season.
All: We gather once more to testify to life.
One: We declare to each other what we have experienced.
All: In community we find the life God intends...or the life finds us.
Unison: So come, let us worship the Lord of life and resurrection!

***OPENING HYMN** "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" GtG 237

One: Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
for our offenses given;
**All: but now at God's right hand Christ stands
and brings us light from heaven;**
One: therefore let us joyful be
and sing to God right thankfully
loud songs of hallelujah!
All: Hallelujah!

One: Our Savior Jesus, God's own Son,
here in our stead descended;
**All: the knot of sin has been undone;
the reign of death is ended.**
One: Christ has crushed the power of hell;
now death is but an empty shell.
**All: Its sting is lost forever!
Hallelujah!**

One: Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
whom God so freely gave us.
**All: He died on the accursed tree
so strong his love to save us.**
One: See, his blood now marks our door:
faith points to it;

death passes o'er,
and Satan cannot harm us.

All: Hallelujah!

One: So let us keep the festival where-to the Lord invites us;

**All: Christ is the very joy of all,
the sun that warms and lights us.**

One: Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;

**All: the night of sin is ended!
Hallelujah!**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** “Before I Take the Body of My Lord” GtG 428

One: Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,

All: I recognize the sorry things within:

Unison: these I lay down.

One: The words of hope I often failed to give,

All: the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,

One: the signs of care I argued out of sight:

All: these I lay down.

One: The narrowness of vision and of mind,

All: the need for other folk to serve my will,

One: and every word and silence meant to hurt:

All: these I lay down.

One: Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,

All: I ask their pardon

One: and I grant them mine,

All: that every contradiction of Christ's peace

Unison: might be laid down.

One: Lord Jesus Christ,
companion at this feast,

**All: I empty now my heart
and stretch my hands,**

One: and ask to meet you here
in bread and wine

All: which you lay down.

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***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from I John 1 & 2)*

One: "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

All: As we confess our sins, we expose our wounds to Love's healing and our self-deceit to Love's correction.

One: "Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

All: On the cross, Christ gives his life that we may have new life through the forgiveness of our sins and the restoration of our life in the light of God's grace and love.

One: Our prayers have been heard
and God's promises are sure.
In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

All: 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

SCRIPTURE READING I John 1:1-2:2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Really Real" 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: Hear us, O God...
People: ...your mercy is great.

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*

**Giver of eternal gladness,
from whom flow endless blessings:
All that we have is from your creative hand.
All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love.
All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom.**

**Deal graciously with our giving
that your church may be empowered
in the proclamation of good news
and the transformation of human life.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining" GtG 192

One: Lord, the light of your love is shining,
All: in the midst of the darkness, shining;
One: Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
All: set us free by the truth you now bring us.
One: Shine on me;
All: shine on me.

One: Shine, Jesus, shine;
All: fill this land with the Father's glory.
One: Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
All: set our hearts on fire.
One: Flow, river, flow;
All: flood the nations with grace and mercy.
One: Send forth your word, Lord,
All: and let there be light.

One: Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
All: by the blood I may enter your brightness.
One: Search me; try me;
All: consume all my darkness.
One: Shine on me;
All: shine on me.

One: As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
All: so our faces display your likeness;
One: ever changing from glory to glory,
All: mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
One: Shine on me;
All: shine on me.

One: Shine, Jesus, shine;
All: fill this land with the Father's glory.
One: Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
All: set our hearts on fire.

One: Flow, river, flow;
All: flood the nations with grace and mercy.
One: Send forth your word, Lord,
All: and let there be light.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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