

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Come and worship, for Christ is Lord and lives in you and in me.
All: **Come and worship, for God is good and invites us to accept God's love.**
One: Come and worship, for the Spirit dwells in our midst, empowering us towards newness and wholeness.
All: **We come to worship the Lord our God.**

OPENING HYMN "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" *[tune 703]*

- One: Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
All: **Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.**
One: We come, with all our heart and mind
All: **your call to hear, your love to find.**
- One: We come with self inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
All: **yet seeking hope for humankind.**
- One: Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
All: **not through some merit, right, or claim
but by your gracious love alone.**
One: We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
All: **and find you kneeling at our feet.**
- One: Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.

**All: Suffer and serve till all are fed
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

One: Great God, in Christ you set us free

All: your life to live, your joy to share.

One: Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair

**All: and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us.

**We have made promises in words
that have not been lived out in truth.**

**We have too easily pushed aside your commands
in favor of our own desires.**

**We have failed to use our overflowing cups
to fill the cups of sisters and brothers
who need what we could offer.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, and abide in us
by the power of your Spirit
that our lives may demonstrate
the love we know in you.**

**In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We seek God's grace with boldness
because we trust in Jesus Christ,
the One who loves us
and laid down his life for us.

**All: This is the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Unison: 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 3:1-2,11,16-24

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Don’t Talk of Love...” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
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: Source of love, Renewer of life...
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*

**Gracious God, we give you thanks
that you have shown us the meaning of love
through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.
Show us how to share Christ's love
by giving our lives for one another;
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

SENDING

CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" [tune 490]

One: Lord, whose love through humble service
bore the weight of human need,

**All: who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed,**

One: we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,

**All: consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.**

One: Still your children wander homeless;

All: still the hungry cry for bread;

One: still the captives long for freedom;

All: still in grief we mourn our dead.

One: As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,

All: use the love your Spirit kindles

still to save and make us whole.

One: As we worship,

All: grant us vision,

One: till your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness,

All: dawns upon our quickened sight,

One: making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,

**All: stirring us to tireless striving,
your abundant life to share.**

One: Called from worship to your service,

All: forth in your dear name we go,

One: to the child, the youth, the aged,

All: love in living deeds to show;

One: hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,

**All: that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

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CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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