

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.
All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.
One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.
All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.
One: In the bread and the cup, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.
All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.
One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.
Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

***OPENING HYMN “At the Font We Start Our Journey” SF 2114**

One: At the font we start our journey,
All: in the Easter faith baptized;
One: doubts and fears no longer blind us,
All: by the light of Christ surprised.
One: Alleluia!
All: Alleluia!
One: Hope held out
All: and realized.

One: At the pulpit we are fashioned
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets,
All: by the power of Christ made bold.
One: Alleluia!
All: Alleluia!
One: Faith proclaimed,
All: yet still untold.

One: At the table we are nourished
with the Easter gift of bread;
**All: in our breaking it to pieces
see the love of Christ outspread.**

One: Alleluia!
All: Alleluia!
One: Life embraced,
All: yet freely shed.

One: At the door we are commissioned,
now the Easter victory's won,
**All: to restore a world divided
to the peace of Christ as one.**
One: Alleluia!
All: Alleluia!
Unison: Easter's work must still be done.

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We come together, O Lord. We come to you. We come in need. For though we have started the journey, we have not followed through very well. When your way becomes difficult, we fall to the wayside. When your word is unclear, we choose another. When your voice is hard to hear, we don't even listen. Forgive us, gracious God. Lift us up and restore us by your grace. Nourish and strengthen us by the presence of your Spirit. And renew our commitment to follow in your way and walk by your side. In Christ's name we pray. 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 15:1-8

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Cling and Cut” 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: Hear our prayer...
People: ...God of love and life.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

For your grace in sustaining us, we give you thanks, O God. For the mercy of your forgiveness and embrace, we give you thanks. For walking with us all our days and teaching us your ways, we give you thanks. We give ourselves to you in thanksgiving for your giving of yourself to us. Use us, and these gifts we bring, to share your word and embody your love. In Christ's 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 (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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community.)

“Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed” GtG 496

One: Bread of heaven,

**All: on thee we feed,
for thou art our food indeed.**

One: Ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living Bread,

**All: day by day with strength supplied
through the life of Christ who died.**

(Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

One: Vine of heaven,

**All: thy love supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice.**

One: 'Tis thy wounds our healing give;

All: to thy cross we look and live.

One: Thou our life!

**All: O let us be
rooted, grafted, built on thee.**

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” GtG 494

One: Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,

All: thou fount of life, thou light of all,

One: from the best bliss that earth imparts

All: we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.

One: Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;

All: thou savest those that on thee call;

One: to them that seek thee thou art good,

All: to them that find thee, all in all.

One: We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;

**All: we drink of thee, the fountainhead,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

One: Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
where'er our changeful lot is cast,

**All: glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

One: O Jesus, ever with us stay;

All: make all our moments calm and bright.

One: O chase the night of sin away;

All: shed o'er the world thy holy light.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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