

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 33)*

One: "The Lord frustrates the purposes of the nations."
All: "God keeps them from carrying out their plans."
One: "But the Lord's plans endure forever."
All: "God's purposes last eternally."
One: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord..."
All: "...The people whom the Lord has chosen as a heritage."

***OPENING HYMN** "We Gather Together" GtG 336

One: We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
All: he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
One: the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
All: Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

One: Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
All: so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
One: thou, Lord, wast at our side;
All: all glory be thine!

One: We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
All: Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
One: thy name be ever praised!
All: O Lord, make us free! *(Public Domain)*

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Father, you led people to this land, and, out of conflict, created in us a love of peace and liberty. We have failed you by neglecting rights and abdicating responsibilities. Forgive pride that overlooks national wrong, or justifies injustice. Forgive divisions caused by prejudice or greed. Have mercy, God, on the heart of this land. Make us compassionate, fair, and helpful to each other. Raise up in us a right heart, that sees this nation's good, and seeks your will for all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from I John 4)*

One: “In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.”

All: **So rejoice and believe the good news of God’s grace: that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, in Jesus Christ we are loved. Amen. Alleluia!**

***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 READINGS Romans 6:16-19
Galatians 5:1,13-14

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “The Blight of Freedom” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles’ Creed (Contemporary)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Hear our prayer...
People: ...Gracious Lord Almighty.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

We thank you, O God, for the numerous blessings we enjoy. We are grateful for the love of family and friends. We are thankful for this country. We thank you for your church. In our gratitude for having received, may we be eager to give. Accept our offerings as visible reminders of our pledge to worship you and serve our neighbor. 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 in unity with Christ. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “I Bind My Heart This Tide”**

**1. I bind my heart this tide to the Galilean’s side,
to the wounds of Calvary, to the Christ who died for me.
I bind my soul this day to the neighbor far away,
and the stranger near at hand, in this town, and in this land.**

**2. I bind my heart and soul to the God, the Lord of all,
to the God, the poor one's Friend, and the Christ whom God did send.
I bind myself to peace, to make strife and envy cease,
my God, fasten sure the cord of my service to my Lord!**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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