

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How great you are, O Lord.
All: **We come to celebrate your grace and goodness.**
One: We come to claim your claim upon us.
All: **We come to seek your power and presence.**
Unison: **We come to worship the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** “God of Grace and God of Glory” GtG 307

One: God of grace and God of glory,
All: **on thy people pour thy power;**
One: crown thine ancient church's story;
All: **bring its bud to glorious flower.**
One: Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
All: **for the facing of this hour.**

One: Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
All: **From the fears that long have bound us**
free our hearts to faith and praise.
One: Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
All: **for the living of these days.**

One: Cure thy children's warring madness;
All: **bend our pride to thy control;**
One: shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
All: **Grant us wisdom,**
One: grant us courage,
All: **lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

One: Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.

**All: Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.**

One: Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

All: serving thee whom we adore.

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

By your grace you have called us, O God. By your grace we confess who we are. The cry of those in need falls on our deaf ears. The dire need of the world is overshadowed by our petty wants and desires. We falter in your way and fail to heed your voice. We need you so desperately, yet we follow you so poorly. Forgive us, gracious God. By your grace, transform us. By your love, renew in us our desire for you. By your Spirit, remake us in the image of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 READING Mark 6:14-29

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Herod Among the Thorns” 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.

**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!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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*

**We sing of your blessings and know of your goodness, O God. Thank
you for the wondrous bounty you shower on us and the wondrous good
works you do in our midst. Help us to respond with joy and thanksgiving,**

giving of ourselves to you and your work in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "The Church of Christ in Every Age" GtG 320

- 1. The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**
- 3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4. For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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