

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 51)*

One: Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.
All: God's Word transforms all who hear and heed it.
One: God's image is a part of each one of us.
All: God offers to each of us deep inner cleansing.
Unison: **"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me."**

***OPENING HYMN** "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" GtG 688
[verses 1, 3, & 5]

One: Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
All: wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
One: stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
All: and make me love thee as I ought to love.

One: Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
All: I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
One: O let me seek thee,
All: and O let me find!

One: Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
All: one holy passion filling all my frame;
One: the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
All: my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we admit that all is not well with us.
We are easily angered and slow to forgive.
We speak without listening
and pretend to listen without really hearing.
Our tongues become weapons
rather than instruments of healing.
We are more critical than helpful
toward the poor in our midst.
Hidden in our hearts are the attitudes that produce
avarice, deceit, and
violation of our promises to you and to one another.
Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness
and learn to love ourselves as you want us to be,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends, do not despair:
God renews us by the word of truth,
that we might become the first fruits of God's creation,
made new by the living Word,
our hearts filled with God's love.
All: **We rejoice in a love stronger than our sin.**
One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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 Mark 7:1-23

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON 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.**

**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: In your mercy, Lord...

People: ...touch our hearts and hear our prayers.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Living God, thank you for your gifts of life—
fragrant flowers, fruitful vines, singing creatures,
and our own lives, renewed in Christ.
O God, receive our gifts for the work of your church.
With them we dedicate ourselves
to live in the truth of your word,
and follow your commandments
with sincere hearts.
Let your grace infuse the gifts we offer
with life-giving power for those in need;
through Christ our Lord. 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. 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** “Into My Heart” StF 2160
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“Change My Heart, O God” GtG 695
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**1. Into my heart, into my heart,
come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
come in today, come in to stay;
come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.**

**2. Out of my heart, out of my heart,
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;
shine out today, shine out always;
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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