

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

**All: who executes justice for the oppressed and
gives food to the hungry.**

One: The Lord sets prisoners free and lifts up those
who are bowed down.

**All: The Lord watches over the stranger and
upholds the orphan and the widow.
The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!**

***OPENING HYMN** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" GtG 306 (*Verses 1-3 & 5*)

One: Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.

**All: The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

One: Before our Maker's throne

All: we pour our ardent prayers.

One: Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,

All: our comforts and our cares.

One: We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.

**All: And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

One: From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;

**All: and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.**

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Relying on the ultimate love we acknowledge this day, we turn to you, O God, to confess our sin. Instead of sharing your love with others, we hoard it for ourselves and those like us. Even then, too often we fail those we profess to love the most. And though you call us to trust you to see us through the dark and stormy days, we do not. Forgive us, O God. Have mercy upon us and gently remake us. Tenderly remind us of your trustworthiness. Nudge us each day to open ourselves up to the wonders you can do through us. And grace us by your love that we might share your love with all your children. For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: In the strength of the Lord Almighty we confide.

All: In the mercy of God we trust.

One: By the power of God we are restored.

All: By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we are renewed.

One: So rejoice and celebrate this day!

All: For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. 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 Ruth (selections)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "A Ruth by Any Other Name..." 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.

(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 sustenance and grace.

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*

You provide for us all our days, O Lord, and we give you thanks. We thank you for relationships of love that nurture and support us. We thank you for your guidance through the questions and confusions of life. Make us ever-mindful of the many ways you bless us, and make us always grateful. Accept our offerings as reminders of our commitment to you this day and always. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee” GtG 816

- 1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.**

- 2. Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.**

- 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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