

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**  
**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, all who are anxious or burdened.  
**All: This is a time to experience good news.**  
One: Come with expectancy and anticipation.  
God is present to greet you and change your life.  
**All: We are here to remember the ministry of Jesus.**  
**We have come to be equipped for our ministry.**  
One: Come, let us worship!

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation” GtG 503

One: Lord, we have come at your own invitation,  
**All: chosen by you, to be counted your friends;**  
One: yours is the strength that sustains dedication;  
**All: ours, a commitment we know never ends.**

One: Here, at your table, confirm our intention;  
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;  
**All: teach us to serve without pride or pretension,**  
**Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.**

One: When, at your table, each time of returning,  
vows are renewed and our courage restored,  
**All: may we increasingly glory in learning**  
**all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God, you gave us your only Son,  
yet we fail to give you our best.  
You continue to bless us,  
even as we ignore those in need.  
You have been faithful,  
yet we have not loved you with our whole hearts.  
You showed us how to love our fellow human beings,  
yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We hurt and disgrace ourselves;  
we abuse and destroy one another;  
we dishonor your holy name.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and turn us back to you, O God,  
that we may follow your commandments,  
and walk in the way of our Lord 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: Because Christ died, we receive forgiveness for our sins. Because he was raised from the dead, we receive new life in him.**

One: So rejoice and be glad, and believe the good news of God's grace!

**All: For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. 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 12:38-44

MARK 12:38-44 (Common English Bible+)

<sup>38</sup> As he was teaching, he said, "Watch out for the scribes. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. <sup>39</sup> They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They are the ones who cheat

widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SERMON “All In” by Pastor Bill Vincent

We picture her: bent over, weighed down by life; perhaps ragged, old(?); certainly she is shy, trying to blend in with the crowd, furtive almost; maybe even ashamed of what she has to drop into the treasury receptacle.

She doesn’t give much – she doesn’t have much to give. But she gives it. She gives it willingly. She gives it determinedly. She gives it even joyfully.

And in that giving, we admire her; we are inspired by her.

Except when we’re not.

I wonder: are there times when we don’t admire her, when we are not inspired by her, because...well, we’re angry with her, even resentful, because she does what we can’t – or won’t.

Jesus is in Jerusalem. He is teaching the people and debating with the religious authorities.

He has told them to “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Mark 12:17 RSV) – which is everything.

He has affirmed the greatest commandment of all in “*loving the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength*”; with the second being to “*love your neighbor as yourself*” (Mark 12:30&31 NRSV).

It is the final week of his ministry.

Indeed, this story is the final public act of his ministry, with a slap at the religious authorities...or at least the scribes...or at least some scribes.

“Give it to ‘em, Jesus!” those smug, self-righteous religious types throwing around their weight, or their money.

Let’s admit: We like it when Jesus takes a jab at the scribes, and others.

Until we walk by the mirror of life and catch a glimpse of ourselves in it.

And come to realize we are more like the scribes, and ‘those rich folk’, than we find it comfortable to admit.

We actually have so much to give.

But we don't.

We drop in our money, and feel good about ourselves, and think we've done our bit. We take an hour for worship on a couple of Sundays, and think we've done our share. Now we can get on with life, our life. We've paid our dues – paid God our dues; or paid God God's due – and we're good for a week or so...until the next time.

And then there comes this widow: this woman who doesn't give much because she doesn't have much to give.

But she gives her all: *"everything she had, all she had to live on."*

And that's what Jesus highlights; that's what he lifts up and celebrates; that's what Jesus holds up as an example.

It is a glance back at the scribes and 'those who are rich'.

But it is also a glance forward, a model for what is to come: of someone else who gives *his* all, and demonstrates that conclusively hanging from a cross.

[--communion table--] "This is my body...this is my blood...for you."

All in.

That's what she is. That's what she does.

All in.

That's what he is. That's what he does.

All in.

Not partially. Not hanging back, tossing in a little bit here, doing a little bit there; keeping God at arm's length by *"giving out of their spare change,"* as one translation says it.

But every aspect of my life dedicated, offered, devoted to serving God.

No matter that it doesn't seem to be a lot, at least from our perspective.

It's a lot of what matters. It's all of what matters. It's the heart. Giving from the heart. Giving the heart. Giving the self, myself – all of the self, all of me.

Not simply an outward show of giving, of dedication. Not an easy ostentation without proper motivation.

But all in.

In love with God.

Loving God with ALL my heart and ALL my soul and ALL my strength and ALL my mind.

And in that all-inclusive love for God, loving my neighbor with all my heart, and loving all my neighbors with all my heart.

Not where some things are out of bounds for God, or for others.

Not where some things are off limits to God, and others.

But all in...cluded.

As the sign says in front of the church:

**#LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

And right below that in parentheses, in letters just as big,

**(NO EXCEPTIONS)**

(First Friends Meeting-A Quaker Church, Greensboro, NC)

All in. For all are in-cluded.

Like some of those ‘saints’ we remember who point us in that direction by their example and their choices and their life; who gave so much of their life that their life touched and changed our life.

All in.

Like some of those veterans we will remember this coming Thursday (Veterans Day): those who “**gave the last full measure of devotion**” as Abraham Lincoln put it (Gettysburg Address).

We may not always be asked to give the “*last* full measure of devotion,” but we are asked to give our “*full* measure of devotion,” up to and even including our *last*.

As Jesus said,

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.* (John 15:13 NRSV)

This is no complex formula or tricky equation: ‘if I give this and do this and then do that, I’m good’.

It’s much simpler than that...and far more profound:

that all that we do,

that all that we say,

that all that we are

reflects the love of God and

embodies our love for God and God’s love for all.

All in.

Remember last Sunday’s story of Ruth: sticking with Naomi, by her side; life connected to life.

At yesterday’s Presbytery meeting, we heard from a mission co-worker for the PCUSA in Central America. She spoke of our work and mission as a partnership with people.

A partnership takes time, an investment of self. It is not a quick fix or easy solution to life’s problems; but a sharing of life, walking through life together.

And I am all in with you.

And you are all in with me.

And together we can make a difference in the world and people’s lives.

Because we are ‘all in’ in this community which is the body of Christ in the world and for the world.

And all it takes is two copper coins...and all that you have to live on.  
All it takes is a willingness to risk...and all the days of your life.  
All it takes is a smile, a hand, a heart...and all that you are  
for all that He offers  
for all that you can  
for all that He will do in you.

All in.  
Are we?

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The Apostles’ Creed (traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy  
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,  
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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

## **CELEBRATING THE SAINTS**

“For All the Saints” StF 2283

One: For all the saints who’ve shown your love  
in how they live and where they move,

**All: for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.**

Lighting a Candle for Family

One: For all the saints who loved your name,

**All: whose faith increased the Savior’s fame,**

One: who sang your songs and shared your word,

**All: accept our gratitude, good Lord.**

Lighting a Candle for Friends

One: For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,  
**All: accept the gratitude we raise.**

Lighting a Candle for Others

One: Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
**All: Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.**

*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor: God of mercy...  
**People: ...hear our prayer.**

### **THE EUCHARIST**

#### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**We make our offerings to you this day, O Lord,  
in gratitude for all you do for us and offer to us.  
Let our gifts be a sign of our gladness  
for all that we have  
and all that we may offer to others,  
And use us to work your will in this world you love,  
that all we say and do may be to your glory.  
In Jesus' 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*

*(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)*

“Feed Us, Lord” GtG 501

One: Feed us, Lord.  
**All: Feed us, Lord.**  
One: In the broken bread,  
          be revealed again.  
**All: Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

*(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal commitment to Christ.)*

One: Quench us, Lord.  
**All: Quench us, Lord.**  
One: On this thirsty ground,  
          may your love flow down.  
**All: Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.**



*Prayer*

**One: Lead us, Lord.**

**All: Lead us, Lord,**

**One: nourished here by Christ,**

**All: given strength for life.**

**Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.**

*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.*

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “Take My Life” GtG 697**

1. **Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
  
2. **Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
  
3. **Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.**
  
4. **Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose,  
every power as thou shalt choose.**
  
5. **Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.**

*(Public Domain)*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**People:** ...Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

The Prayer of Confession, Prayers of the People (adapted), Prayer of Dedication, and Prayer of Thanksgiving are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2015.