

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us present ourselves before God.  
**All: We find strength for living as we praise God.**  
One: We pour out our souls before the living God.  
**All: We do not withhold from God our misery and distress.**  
One: The counsel of our God gladdens our hearts.  
**All: In God's presence there is fullness of joy.**

**\*OPENING HYMN "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" GtG 624 (Verses 1-3 & 5)**

One: I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
**All: my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;**  
One: I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

One: Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
reigning omnipotent in every place:  
**All: so come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.**

One: Thou art the life, by which alone we live,  
and all our substance and our strength receive;  
**All: sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
and give us strength in every trying hour.**

One: Our hope is in no other save in thee;  
**All: our faith is built upon thy promise free;**  
One: Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
**All: that in thy strength we evermore endure.**

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**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Mighty and merciful God,  
we have failed to help those who have little  
while we have much.  
We shake our heads at the evil around us  
but do little to witness to a better way.  
We follow after false leaders  
and grasp for whatever security we can find.  
We are boastful and haughty,  
and your pathways of self-sacrificing love are rarely explored.  
Forgive us, O God, for we are quick to forget  
that all of life is in your hands.  
Turn us around to you.  
Renew our hope, increase our courage,  
and lead us to the humble path of Jesus Christ our Lord;  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the cross of Christ we discern the height and length and depth and breadth of God's love and forgiveness.

**All:** **So let us rejoice in the good news, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved. 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** Mark 13:1-8

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "How Are We, Then, to Midwife?" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** "When We Are Living" GtG 822 (*Verses 1, 3, & 4*)

**1. When we are living,  
it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying,  
it is in the Lord.**

**Both in our living  
and in our dying,  
we belong to God;  
we belong to God.**

**3. 'Mid times of sorrow  
and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty  
or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer,  
or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God;  
we belong to God.**

**4. Across this wide world,  
we shall always find  
those who are crying  
with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them,  
or when we feed them,  
we belong to God;  
we belong to God.**

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**\*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)

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy...

**People:** ...hear our prayer.

### **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.**

## **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**How can we thank you, O God, for all that you have done?  
You give us life; you give us hope; you give us your very self.  
Take and use the offering of our lives and our very selves  
that your will may be done  
in our church, in our community,  
and throughout your wide and beautiful world.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Be Still, My Soul" GtG 819

1. **Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**
  
2. **Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**
  
3. **Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord;  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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