

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 124)*

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

All: **For “our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

One: Even when our mortal structures fail and fall...

All: **“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

One: In all of life, and even in death...

All: **“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

***OPENING HYMN** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” GtG 39

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

2. **Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)**
3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

(Refrain)

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God, we proclaim your greatness, yet cower in weakness. The powers in life that assail us are monstrous, and we are afraid. You tell us to trust in you, yet we hunker down in fear. We are scared of being hurt and what we might lose. We are afraid of rejection and being laughed at. We are fearful of being wrong and making things worse. We do not trust that you will be with us, to guide us and protect us, to give us courage, and to help us do your work. Forgive us, gracious God. Renew our faith in you. Restore us to your hope. And reclaim us for your message of love made bright and true by the power of the resurrection. For it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners,

All: **Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ even prays for us.**

One: My friends, rejoice and celebrate in the good news we claim and embrace.

All: **That 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

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 46

One: God is our refuge and strength,

All: **a very present help in trouble.**

One: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled
into the depths of the sea;

All: **Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**

One: The Lord of hosts is with us;

All: **the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

One: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

All: **God is in the midst of the city;**

**it shall not be overthrown;
God shall help it at the break of day.**

One: The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;

All: God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

One: The Lord of hosts is with us;

All: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

One: Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,
what awesome things God has done on earth.

**All: It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

One: “Be still, then, and know that I am God;

**All: I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

One: The Lord of hosts is with us;

All: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8 (selected verses)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Grappling with Uvalde +...” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***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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***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.**

**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!"**

**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

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, by your strength, with your grace...

People: ...hear our prayer.

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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION - Carol Gruber: Pentecost offering

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Eternal God, you bring joy out of sorrow, plenty out of want, life out of death. For your grace in the midst of adversity, we give you thanks. For your sustaining presence in times of emptiness, we give you thanks. For your peace in storms of turmoil, we give you thanks. Accept our gratitude and these tokens of our thanks. May our lives be beacons of faithfulness and love, reflecting the light and life of your glory. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "How Firm a Foundation" GtG 463

1. **How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
2. **"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**
3. **"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**
4. **"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**
5. **"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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