

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 30)*

One: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
All: **Give thanks to God's holy name.**
One: Give thanks to God who turns mourning into dancing.
All: **Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.**
One: Thank God for healing and ever-present help.
All: **Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.**
One: For Christ is risen!
All: **He is risen indeed!**

***OPENING HYMN** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" GtG 248

1. **Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!**
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.
2. **Christ is risen! Raise your spirits**
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.
3. **Christ is risen! Earth and heaven**
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation

where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna, everyone!

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord God, in the light of your glory
we see the evil we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.
Heal us of our sin,
wash us in your mercy,
and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow your way
and share the good news of the gospel. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Christ transforms. Christ redeems and renews.
All: **Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation,
ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.**
One: In 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 Acts 9:1-20

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "Jesus Calls Us" GtG 720

1. **Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me!"**

2. **Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

3. **In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**

4. **Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

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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.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: O Lord our God...
People: ...hear our prayers today.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Risen Savior, we come as your chosen instruments, called to serve. By your might we are empowered to do what you ask of us; with your blessing, we can rejoice in the gift of new life; to your glory we have been granted the Spirit's counsel. Responding to your love and grace, we offer you our lives and ourselves. Receive our gifts of thanksgiving and praise, and use them for your glory and the good of your people. 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 (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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, as a community.
Please drink the cup as you are served, in personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Will You Come and Follow Me" GtG 726

- 1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**
- 2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"**
- 3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"**

4. **“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

*The Summons, Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule, Tune
Arr. by John L. Bell.
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Christ is risen!
All: Christ is risen, indeed!
One: Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection!
All: We will live into the joy of Christ's call!
One: May the grace, hope, peace and love
of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with you now and always.
And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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