

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The steadfast love of God surrounds us;
All: **be glad and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**
One: Our hope is in God, who gives us life and identity.
All: **Our help is from God, who is in covenant with us.**
One: We celebrate the good things of life that God provides.
All: **We give thanks for God's steadfast love.**

***OPENING HYMN** "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" GtG 624 (*Verses 1, 2, & 5*)

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

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

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

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God,
we confess that we have broken covenant with you.
Our lives do not praise you,
our actions deny you, and**

our work is carried out without reference to your will.
We may seek to be delivered from deceitful and unjust people,
yet we fail to examine ourselves to see if we are completely honest and just.
We may sense demonic forces at work in our world,
yet we fail to ask if there is any evil in us.
We have coveted what belongs to others
while wasting what we have.
We seek to justify ourselves through good works
rather than serving joyously and gratefully to honor you.
Forgive us, gracious God,
and deliver us from evil.
Pour out your grace upon us, and
help us to turn from our sins
so that we may love you and walk in your way,
by joyfully caring for others. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The cross of Christ stands as the sign
that the love of God lives in us
through faith in the grace of God.
All: God forgives and makes our way straight before us.
One: By the power of the Holy Spirit,
in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.
One: In awe and reverence,
let us accept God's gift and allow our ways to be changed.
**All: May we live by grace,
recognizing and embracing the peace God offers.**

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 READINGS Galatians 2:15-21
Galatians 3:1-14, 23-29
Galatians 4:8-9
Galatians 5:1-6

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN “Just as I Am, without One Plea” GtG 442

1. **Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
2. **Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
3. **Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
4. **Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea, Music Harm. by John Ribble.
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*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

One: God of grace and mercy...
All: ...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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**We give you thanks, O God,
for the great love that you have lavished upon us in Christ Jesus,
and offer ourselves in response to your love.
Make us grateful every day
for the privilege of sharing this love with others,
as a sign of your never-failing care**

**for the well-being of all your world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “There Is Now a New Creation” GtG 774 (*Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5*)

- 1. There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation
with the God of endless life.**
- 2. Call the lost and found together;
tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever
and a new life has begun.**
- 3. Wrap the prodigal in welcome;
run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven;
let us now be reconciled.**
- 4. Come and join the celebration;
come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation
to the greatest and the least.**
- 5. There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration,
to the God of endless life!**

*There is now a new creation, Text by David Gambrell.
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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