

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 119)*

One: Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord,
All: **who seek God with their whole hearts.**
One: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

***OPENING HYMN** "Teach Us, O God" [*Tune: GtG 269*]

1. Teach us, O God, your statutes,
That we may keep your law,
For you alone are holy --
You fill our lives with awe.
In covenant, we serve you
And seek your way to find.
Go with us in our struggles
To live your love most kind.

2. As stewards of your mysteries,
As servants called to bring
Your light to things now hidden,
We would your praises sing.
You turn us from our striving
For things that pass away,
To sharing with our neighbors
The goods that we survey.

3. Let love of neighbor send us
To go the extra mile,
To pray for those who hate us,
Who slander and revile.
May we your justice render
In true equality,
While turning from all vengeance
To generosity.

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You have given us your statutes, but we follow our own desires. We know of your laws, yet we try to justify our own way. You desire obedience, we practice rebellion. You offer blessing, we search for scapegoats. Make us mindful of how we disorder your intentions. Help us, O God, to judge ourselves aright and to show mercy to others, as we in turn look to you for mercy and forgiveness. . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on Psalm 103)*

One: “The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.”
Friends, God who is just and merciful
reproves our sinful ways,
offers the grace of repentance,
and frees us to live as God’s beloved children.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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 Matthew 5:21-48

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Help Us Accept Each Other” GtG 754

- 1. Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe**

**we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.**

- 2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.**
- 3. Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.**
- 4. Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!**

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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: Merciful God, hear our prayer...

All: ...and turn our hearts and lives to you.

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*

**O God, you rule over all. The sun rises on the just and the unjust.
You care for all. We lift up our offerings to you in faith. Let that which we
offer be in response to your incredible mercy; let that which we do be
dependent on your grace. Accept what we bring as signs of our endurance in
faith; and use them, and us, to further Christ's ministry and make your way
known. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Come! Live in the Light!” GtG 749
(We Are Called)

1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy
and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy
to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day
when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” GtG 765

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

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POSTLUDE

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