

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Steady our steps, O God, as we travel the journey set before us.
All: **Let us walk in the way of light and pursue the path of peace.**
One: Keep us on your course of life as we seek to be faithful;
All: **as we love our God with all our hearts, souls, and minds,**
One: and love our neighbors as ourselves.
All: **And as we gather to praise you, our faithful Lord and God.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” GtG 703

1. **Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.**
2. **O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.**
3. **O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have forgiven us many times. Still we wander away from you, seeking to live for ourselves. We depend on our own cunning rather than on your direction. We flex our muscles instead of relying on your mercy. We boast of our accomplishments rather than your generous provision for us. Forgive us, we pray. Turn our hearts to your intentions that we may hold fast to one another and draw near to your presence. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from I John 4)*

One: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven."

All: **"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through him."**

One: So rejoice and be glad and believe in the good news!

All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. Amen! Alleluia!**

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 7:12-29

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Foundation, Root...and Key" by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN "Spirit, Open My Heart" GtG 692

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

(continued...)

**1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**3. May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.**

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

*Spirit, Open My Heart, Text by Ruth Duck.
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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!"**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, in your 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*

Into your hands, faithful God, we commit our spirits, our substance, our plans. We offer the best we have to give, in thanks for your abiding love. Receive the fruit of your mercy and the offerings of our lives. Use our gifts, and us, to grow your harvest of justice and mercy and love; that we might proclaim and embody your presence in the world. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “Together We Serve” GtG 767**

**1. Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world
to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love
to the last and the least.**

**2. We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart
and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ
in each person we meet.**

**3. We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely,
and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help,
our hearts ready to dare.**

(continued...)

**4. Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus,
in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love
is the strength of our song.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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