

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to be refreshed and renewed for the journey of life.
All: **We come to embrace the one who embraces us.**
One: Come, people of God, to hear again the call to discipleship.
All: **We come to hear God speak and to relish the presence of the Lord.**
One: Come, people of God, come.
All: **We come in joy to worship the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” StF 2191 [*Tune GtG#321*]

1. **Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain ‘round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**

2. **Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

3. **Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,**

**you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey, Text by Sylvia G. Dunstan.
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are times, Lord, when we are weighed down by grief or illness, and doubts crowd out our steadfast faith in you. During times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, we have not done the things that we intend to do, and we have not loved you. Forgive us, gracious God. Renew our direction and heal our broken intentions. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future where we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, strengthened by our faith in your wondrous love made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on 1 John 1 & Galatians 1)*

One: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

All: **In humility and faith, we proclaim the good news we have received: that our Lord Jesus Christ loves us and gave his life to set us free from our sins.**

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 John 4:46-54

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Signs of Progress” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Faith Begins by Letting Go” GtG 684 [Tune 220]

**1. Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.**

**2. Faith endures by holding on,
keeping memory’s roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God’s great faithfulness.**

**3. Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God’s grace.**

*Faith Begins by Letting Go, Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr.
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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.**

**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

One: In your mercy, O God...
All: **...hear the prayers of your people.**

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Thank you, gracious God, for walking with us and providing for us and loving us all along the way. We bring our gifts to you as tokens of our gratitude and symbols of the offering of our lives in thanksgiving to you. In Christ's name we pray. 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, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community in unity with Christ. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” GtG 829**

- 1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!**
- 2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou has died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**
- 3. While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**
- 4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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