

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 145)*

One: Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.

All: **And we, your faithful, bless you.**

One: We shall speak of the glory of your realm and tell of your power.

All: **We shall let all people know your mighty deeds and glorious splendor.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Creator of Mountains" StF 2061

1. **Creator of mountains, of glaciers and streams,
Great Splasher of fountains and Dreamer of dreams,
we gather in wonder and praise for your grace.
Responding, we ponder our work in this place.**

2. **Creator of peoples and races and tribes,
not bound by church steeples or what myth describes,
we celebrate now our diversity here,
in penitence vow to accept and not fear.**

3. **Created for caring for all human need,
we seek to be daring in thought and in deed.
Turn us from all strife that demeans or divides.
Reform us for life that empow'rs and abides.**

4. **Creator of river and forest and snow,
Eternal Life-giver whose presence we know,
your voice is resounding in storm, wind, and wave.
Your love is abounding, embracing to save.**

5. **Great God, now we come, our hearts grateful for days
when faith, like a drum-beat, keeps steady our praise.
In song and rejoicing hopes stir and arise,
our spirits now voicing their hymns to the skies.**

Words: *Creator of Mountains*, Text by Jane Parker Huber.

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Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk melody. Public Domain.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
we sing praise to you for your grace and your power,
Yet our lives too often fall by the wayside.
Forgive us when we fail to recognize, or heed, your call.
Forgive us when we hesitate to follow
and choose instead the easy path...away from you.
Forgive us, gracious God,
and restore us as your people.
Strengthen us in our faith.
Steady us in our following.
And unite us with Christ in his life and his love and his way.
For it is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Relentlessly, God seeks us out.
All: **With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.**
One: This is good news!
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

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 6:16-21

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Which Storm?" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "Be Still, My Soul" GtG 819 (*Verses 1-2*)

**1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.**

**Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

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Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

***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.**

**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: We put our trust in you, O God...

All: ...for you alone can save us.

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*

With thanks in our hearts and praise on our lips, we give ourselves to you, O Lord. Receive our offerings as tokens of our commitment to you and your will. Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” GtG 8**

- 1. Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**
- 2. O Savior, whose almighty word
the wind and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**
- 3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**
- 4. O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.**

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Text: William Whiting, 1860, alt.
Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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