

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- One: The Lord our God, creator of night and day, calls us to come.  
All: **Our Lord and Master, Jesus the Christ, invites us to join in the song.**  
One: Our Guide and Sustainer, the Holy Spirit, beckons us to listen and rejoice.  
All: **So come, let us worship in song and praise, in prayer and thanksgiving.**  
Unison: **Come, let us worship the Lord.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "O Day of Radiant Gladness" (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*) [*Tune 393*]

1. **O day of radiant gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright;  
this day the high and lowly,  
through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy"  
to the great God triune.**
  
2. **This day at the creation  
the light first had its birth;  
this day for our salvation  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
this day our Lord victorious  
the Spirit sent from heaven,  
and thus this day most glorious  
a triple light was given.**
  
4. **That light our hope sustaining,  
we walk the pilgrim way,  
at length our rest attaining,  
our endless Sabbath day.  
We sing to you our praises,**

**O Father, Spirit, Son;  
the church its voice upraises  
to you, blest Three in One.**

Music: Memmingen ms., 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904  
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Text: Stanzas 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; alt.  
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Stanza 4, *Church Pension Fund*.  
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### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God,  
we are people who still love darkness rather than light.  
We keep shameful deeds secret,  
but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.  
We see ourselves as blameless,  
but pass judgment on others.  
We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable,  
but step back, protecting ourselves.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Bring us into your light that we may  
see ourselves rightly.  
Bring us into your light that we may  
know ourselves loved.  
Bring us into your light that we may  
live more fruitful lives.  
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,  
and shine upon us with your grace.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world. Amen.**

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from I Timothy 1 & I Peter 2)*

**One:** Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
**All:** **He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be  
dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.**  
**One:** I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**All:** **Alleluia! Amen.**

### **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 9:1-41

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** “Open Our Eyes” StF 2086

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.**

Words and Music by Bob Cull.

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**SERMON** “Faith Mirror” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” GtG 649 *(Verses 1-4)*

1. **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**
  
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**
  
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**
  
4. **The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

Words: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772

Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O Excell, 1910, alt.  
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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** God of light and life...

**All:** ...enlighten our lives with your grace and presence.

**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*

**For your grace to us, we give you thanks, O Lord. For your shining  
your light into our lives, we give you thanks. Accept these offerings we bring.  
Use them, and us, to share your love and shine your glory into your world.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" GtG 451

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
  
2. **Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
  
3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Words and Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895  
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## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**All:** ...Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

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