

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- One: Come to be refreshed and revived by our worship of God.  
All: **We come seeking guidance. We come seeking comfort.**  
One: Come to listen and hear God's word to us.  
All: **We take time out from our busy schedules to be still and know that the Lord is God.**  
Unison: **So come, let us worship the Lord our God. For God is here!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "God Is Here!" GtG 409 (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*)

1. **God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.**
2. **Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.**
4. **Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.**

*(continued...)*

**Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988. Copyright 1994 Hope Publishing Company  
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941. Copyright 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company  
*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434.*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God: we are busy about many things, then we fail to take time to heed your presence. We do not listen for your word or watch for your lead. We rush headlong into projects, forgetting to consider your will. Forgive our hastiness, O Lord. Slow us down long enough to perceive your direction for us and to hear your word to us. Help us to watch and wait for the leading of your Spirit in our lives. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: God's power to pardon is immeasurable.  
All: **The Lord hears our confession and is eager to forgive.**  
One: Forgiveness is God's gift to us,  
All: **one we can never earn but are welcome to accept.**  
One: Proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth: believe it, live it.  
All: **Through the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. 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 READINGS** Isaiah 40:27-31  
Acts 1:1-14

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "The Power of Waiting...Waiting...Waiting..." by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Take Time to Be Holy”

1. **Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
abide in him always and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak;  
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**
2. **Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;  
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;  
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.**
3. **Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,  
and run not before him, whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**
4. **Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul --  
each thought and each motive beneath his control.  
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,  
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

Words: William D. Longstaff, ca. 1882. *Public Domain.*  
Music: LONGSTAFF/HOLINESS, George C. Stebbins,  
1890. *Public Domain.*

**\*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.**

*(continued...)*

**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:** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** ...Amen.

### **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*

**We praise your name, O God, for you are merciful and gracious toward us. Thank you for faith and love, for knowledge and wisdom, for all the seasons of life that present us with opportunities for growth and fulfillment. Create in us hearts of gratitude willing to wait for you and wait in you. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need and help unburden those with the heaviest of loads, as we seek to love and serve you in our doing and in our waiting. 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: Clara H. Scott, 1895. *Public Domain.*

Music: OPEN MY EYES, Clara H. Scott, 1895. *Public Domain.*

### **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**

The Assurance of Pardon, Prayers of the People (adapted), and Prayer of Dedication are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

The Prayer for Illumination, Prayers of the People (adapted), and Prayer of Dedication are written by Teri McDowell Ott and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023.

The Assurance of Pardon is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1998 by United Church Press.

The Prayers of the People (adapted) are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Connections Worship Companion*. Copyright 2022.

The Prayer of Dedication is reprinted, with permission, from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1992 by The Pilgrim Press.