

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 34)*

One: "I will bless the Lord at all times."

**All: "God's praise shall continually be in my mouth."**

One: "O magnify the Lord with me."

**All: "O taste and see that the Lord is good."**

One: Come, let us worship the God of grace...

**All: ...The God of resurrection and new life!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" GtG 248

**1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!**

**Celebrate this day of days!**

**Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:  
all creation is amazed.**

**In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.**

**2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits**

**from the caverns of despair.**

**Walk with gladness in the morning.**

**See what love can do and dare.**

**Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.**

**Jesus is our strong companion.**

**Joy and peace shall never end.**

*(continued...)*

3. **Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us.  
Sing Hosanna, everyone!**

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Tune: HYMN TO JOY. Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward  
Hodges, 1842, alt. *Public Domain.*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord, we want to shout your praise, yet all too often our song is but a faint  
echo. Our words of commitment ring hollow. Our deeds do not follow your  
example. Our lives are empty of your grace. Forgive us, gracious and tender God.  
Cleanse us of our selfish tendencies, and fill us anew with your love. Reclaim us and  
remake us as your own people. For it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.**

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Christ has transformed us. Christ has renewed us.

**All: Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation,  
ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.**

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 READINGS** Acts 7:54-60  
I Peter 2:1-5,9-10

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "Throwing Stones...or Being One" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak” GtG 722

1. **Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.**
2. **O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**
3. **O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.**
4. **O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.**
5. **O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

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Music: CANONBURY. Robert Schumann, 1839, alt. *Public Domain.*

**\*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.**

*(continued...)*

**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:** God of resurrection...  
**All:** ...hear our prayer.

### **THE EUCHARIST**

#### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**With joy we celebrate your power and presence, O Lord. Thank you for your guidance of us. Thank you for your providing for us. Thank you for your love to us. May we, in our thoughts and words and deeds, proclaim you Lord of all. Use us and our gifts to proclaim your glory and further your kingdom. 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* (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.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*Communion of the People*

*(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)*

**Sing:** "Feed Us, Lord" GtG 501

**1. Feed us, Lord.  
Feed us, Lord.  
In the broken bread, be revealed again.  
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

**3. Fill us, Lord.  
Fill us, Lord,  
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.  
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.**

*(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)*

**2. Quench us, Lord.  
Quench us, Lord.  
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.  
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.**

**4. Lead us, Lord.  
Lead us, Lord,  
nourished here by Christ, given strength for life.  
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.**

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*Prayer*

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples” GtG 757

1. **Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.**
  
2. **God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.**
  
3. **Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.**
  
4. **May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

*(next page...)*

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*Music: KINGSFOLD. English County Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**All:** ...Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

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