

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus Christ summons us  
to answer God's call of mercy.  
**All: Christ gathers us and gives us power  
to be healed and to heal,**  
One: to be forgiven and to forgive,  
**All: to be freed from sin and to set others free,**  
One: to tell one another and the world:  
God's presence is at hand.  
**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Here in this Place" GtG 401

**1. Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

*(continued...)*

3. Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light-years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Gather Us In, Text and Tune by Marty Haugen, 1979.  
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#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God, you call us to be a light to the world, yet ours is not a shining example. The trust we are to have in you often grows dim, and sometimes fades completely. We put a price tag on the love we are to share freely. By your grace and for the sake of your dear Son, forgive us. By your Spirit renew us, and refresh us in the ways of your faith, hope, and love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news:

All: **God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness is promised to all generations.**

One: We are justified by faith, forgiven and freed, and at peace with God and each other through Jesus Christ.

#### **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** Matthew 9:35-10:8

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "When John Deere Can't" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" GtG 298 (*Verses 1-2, 4-5*)

1. **Lord, you give the great commission:  
"Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission,  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity:  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.**
  
2. **Lord, you call us to your service:  
"In my name baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise,  
life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervor, draw us  
closer in community:  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.**
  
4. **Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
"Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure  
all that you so freely give.  
May your care and mercy lead us  
to a just society:  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.**
  
5. **Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
"I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
may we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us,  
hold in mind eternity:**

*(continued...)*

**with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.**

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**\*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.  
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:** Incline your ear to us;  
**All:** hear our prayers and supplications.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Traditional)

*(next page...)*

**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.**

## **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Bountifully you have given to us, O Lord, bountifully may we give.  
Accept these offerings we bring. They are but a portion of your gifts to us.  
We offer you all that we have and all that we are, that your will might be  
done and your kingdom come. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Go to the World!" GtG 295

**1. Go to the world!  
Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**2. Go to the world!  
Go into every place.  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*(continued...)*

**3. Go to the world!  
Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**4. Go to the world!  
Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Go to the World, Text by Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985.  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**\*RESPONSE "Go with Us, Lord" GtG 748**

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to you.**

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**POSTLUDE**

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