

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, O people of God, to give thanks to the Lord who created you.  
All: **We give thanks and praise to the God who stands by us all our days.**  
One: Come, O people of God, to rejoice in the Lord's saving graces.  
All: **We sing for joy, knowing how good God has been to us.**  
One: Come, O people of God, to be refreshed for the journey, and to listen to God's word of guidance.  
All: **We come to worship the Lord.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” GtG 39

1. **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain:*

**Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

2. **Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

*(Refrain)*

*(continued...)*

3. **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*Refrain:*

**Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

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#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God: you call us to trust in you, but we do not. Even though your promises remain sure, we seek assurance in our own capabilities and resources. You call us to new life, and we wonder how, failing to fathom the depth of your love for us. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Call forth in us an abiding faith. Heal us from past disappointments, that we might have confidence in you, for great is your faithfulness, mercy, and love. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: God's favor rests on us.  
**All: Sincere confession is met with caring acceptance.**  
One: God hears the prayers of our hearts and grants us peace the world cannot give.  
**All: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, that we might have access to the grace in which we stand.**  
One: For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, restored.  
**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 READING** Genesis 18:1-15

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “Living on Nothing More Than a Word” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “How Firm a Foundation” GtG 463

1. **How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
2. **"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**
3. **"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**
4. **"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**
5. **"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

Words: “K” in John Rippon’s *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
Music: American folk melody; Funk’s *Genuine Church Music*, 1832, alt.  
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## **\*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.**

**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.  
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.**

**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: Hear our prayer, O God.  
All: We call on your name, O Lord...**

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

**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*

**We thank you, O God, for your word of promise and the gift of creation. We are grateful for all your many gifts to us. Teach us to say, "Thank you" not only with our words, but also with our actions and our lives...and our trust in you. In gratitude and in faith we offer all that we have and all that we are to you and your service in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Standing on the Promises" GtG 838

**1. Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.**

*Refrain:*

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

*(continued...)*

**2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God.**

*Refrain:*

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God.**

*Refrain:*

**4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God.**

*Refrain:*

Words and Music (PROMISES): R. Kelso Carter, 1886  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**All:** ...Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

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