

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come to Christ, all who are weary.  
Gather together, all who carry heavy burdens.  
All: **The gentle spirit of Christ invites us.**  
**We have come to find rest for our souls.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” GtG 366 (*Tune 761*)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.

*(continued...)*

**Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

- 4. Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.  
Music: BEECHER, John Zundel, 1870  
*Public Domain.*

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

**Dear God, trusting in your grace and mercy,  
we confess to you our sin,  
for we are tired and weighed down by the mistakes we have made.  
You bid us love one another freely and generously,  
but we parcel out our love  
according to human standards of worth and deserving.  
You bid us trust in you and rely upon you for guidance and life itself,  
but we take the world on our shoulders  
and try to do it all on our own.  
Forgive us, merciful God.  
By your love, redirect us.  
By your Spirit, guide us;  
that we might be transformed in the image of your Son,  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One: Friends, hear the good news of our faith:  
God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
showing compassion to all.**

**All: Forgiven and freed, we share our joy  
as we share our peace with one another.**

## 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 11:2-6, 16-19, 25-30

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “The Right Fit” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” GtG 182

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found him in a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk  
till traveling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846, alt. Music: KINGSFOLD,  
*English County Songs*, 1893,; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams,  
1906. *Public Domain*.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**Christ calls us to be disciples.**

**In forming his people and sending them into the world**

**Jesus called individuals to be disciples.**

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,  
to understand and obey his teachings,  
and to follow him in life and death.**

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.**

**Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ  
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.**

**It is also God's demand upon every one of us,  
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.**

**Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,  
we strive to become more faithful and effective  
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** Compassionate God,...

**All:** ...you are good to all.

**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*

**Dear God,  
for your many blessings we give you thanks.  
For the gift of your word,  
we give you thanks.  
For your guidance and sustenance and care,  
we give you thanks.  
Bless and multiply  
the gifts we offer in gratitude,  
that they may be used to proclaim  
the glory of your kingdom  
and make known to all people  
the power of your saving acts. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord” GtG 707

- 1. Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;  
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;  
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.**
- 2. Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;  
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;  
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;  
use us to make the earth like heaven above.**
- 3. Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;  
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;  
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;  
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.**
- 4. Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;  
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.  
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;  
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.**

Words: William H. Foulkes, stanzas 1-3, 1918, stanza 4, ca. 1920.  
Music: HALL, Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1918.  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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