

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come to God in humility and anticipation.  
All: **God comes to us with compassion and power.**  
One: We are here. God is here.  
All: **So come, let us worship the Lord our God.**

**\*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.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,**

**we adore you! We believe!**

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Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941.

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### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgive us, O God. We shut our eyes to your working in our midst. We close our ears to your call to us. [We shut off our minds and miss your insights.] We close our hearts to your still, small voice within. Have mercy upon us, O God. Forgive our shutting ourselves off from you. Open us up to your presence and your word. Touch us by your Spirit, and remake us in the image of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the cross of Christ we discern the height and length and depth and breadth of God's love and forgiveness.

**All:** **So let us rejoice in the good news, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved. Alleluia! Amen!**

### **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 28:10-19a

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "Jacob's Dream ... and Ours" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** "Kum ba Yah" GtG 472

1. **\*Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**O Lord, kum ba yah!**

2. **Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**O Lord, kum ba yah!**
3. **Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**O Lord, kum ba yah!**
4. **Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!**  
**O Lord, kum ba yah!**

*\*Come by here.*

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

**Christ calls us to live in the presence of God.**  
**Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father's presence.**  
**He put God's claim on his life above all else.**  
**He joined others in God's worship and praise.**  
**He drew strength from the Scriptures.**  
**He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.**  
**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us**  
**personal lives that are centered in God**  
**and open to God's reality and rule.**

**We acknowledge one God alone,**  
**whose demands on us are absolute,**  
**whose help for us is sufficient.**  
**That One is the Lord,**  
**whom we worship, serve, and love.**

“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:** Lord, in your mercy...  
**All:** ...hear our prayer.

**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*

**In gratitude we bring our offerings before you, O God. You have blessed us in ways known and unknown. Receive our offering of thanksgiving and our pledge of ourselves. Use us as your instruments to bring about the fruit of your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" GtG 546

- 1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us,  
O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.**
- 2. Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful,  
ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.**

3. **Savior, when your love shall call us,  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever,  
may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.**

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey Thring, 1880, alt.

Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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