

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Isaiah 43)*

One: “The Lord who created you says, ‘Do not be afraid – I will save you. I have called you by name – you are mine.’”

**All: “When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you.”**

One: “For I am the Lord your God, the holy God of Israel, who saves you.”

**All: “Do not be afraid – I am with you!”**

One: Trusting in the call and promise of God, let us come and worship.

**\*OPENING 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.**

**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:*

**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:*

*(continued...)*

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:*

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

Words and Music (PROMISES): R. Kelso Carter, 1886.  
*Public Domain*

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

**Dear God,  
we say we trust you,  
but our lives say otherwise.  
We are intimidated by our circumstances,  
distracted from your purposes,  
drowning in doubts and fears.  
We rely upon our own wits  
instead of your wisdom.  
We depend upon our own resources  
instead of your strength.  
Forgive us, gracious Lord.  
Teach us faith,  
and show us the way of trusting in your word.  
For you are our God and we are your people,  
and we pray in your Son's name. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** In the strength of the Lord Almighty we confide.  
**All:** **In the mercy of God we trust.**  
**One:** By the power of God we are restored.  
**All:** **By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we are renewed.**  
**One:** So rejoice and celebrate this day!  
**All:** **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are loved, we are given new life. 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** Matthew 14:22-33

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “Ship-shape? Or Weather-worn?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” GtG 8

1. **Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**
2. **O Savior, whose almighty word  
the wind and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**
3. **O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
upon the chaos wild and rude,  
and bade its angry tumult cease,  
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**
4. **O Trinity of love and power,  
all travelers guard in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad praise from air and land and sea.**

Words: William Whiting, 1860, alt.

Music: MELITA, John Bacchus Dykes, 1861  
*Public Domain*

## **\*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.**

**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: Save us, O Lord...  
All: ...we come to you.**

## **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*

**Dear God, we give you thanks  
for your help in times of trouble  
and your comfort in times of sorrow.  
We give you thanks  
for a world of beauty  
and for people who care.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
as tokens of our gratitude and  
symbols of our commitment  
to worship you and  
love one another.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Give to the Wind Thy Fears" GtG 815

- 1. Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope, and be undismayed.  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;  
God shall lift up thy head.**
- 2. Through waves and clouds and storms  
God gently clears the way.  
Wait patiently; so shall this night  
soon end in joyous day.**
- 3. Leave to God's sovereign sway  
to choose and to command.  
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,  
how wise, how strong God's hand!**
- 4. Let us in life, in death,  
thy steadfast truth declare,  
and publish with our final breath  
thy love and guardian care.**

Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. John Wesley, 1737, alt.  
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1872  
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## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

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