

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

21st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to be refreshed and renewed for the journey of life.
All: **We come to embrace the one who embraces us.**
One: Come, people of God, to hear again the call to discipleship.
All: **We come to hear God speak and to relish the presence of the Lord.**
One: Come, people of God, come.
All: **We come in joy to worship the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” GtG 65

1. **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.**

(continued...)

**Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams,
1771; stanzas 2-3, trans. William Williams, 1772
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Dear God, you show us how to live.
But we want to make our own adjustments to suit ourselves.
You show us the path to life,
but we ‘hem’ and ‘haw’ and choose a different way: the world’s way.
We conform to this world’s frantic pace,
too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.
We conform to this world’s reckless waste,
exploiting what you entrust to our care.
We conform to this world’s shallow values,
oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.
We conform to this world’s impatient attitudes,
preferring the latest instead of the lasting.
Forgive us, God of grace and tender mercy.
Forgive our conformity
and reclaim us as your own.
Touch our minds that we may choose you.
Touch our hearts that we may embrace you.
Touch our lives that we may follow you.
For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from I Timothy 1 & I Peter 2)*

One: Hear the good news! “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”
All: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be
dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.”
One: I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: 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 16:13-24

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Choose...to Walk” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” GtG 738

1. **O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
2. **Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**
3. **Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**
4. **In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Words: Washington Gladden, 1879

Music: MARYTON, Henry Percy Smith, 1874

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

**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: Hear our prayer, O Lord...
All: ...and walk with us in grace and love.

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*

**O God, we confess faith in your mercy and presence
as we bring our offerings before you.
Use them to further your work.
May our talents be useful in serving your people.
May our time be filled with obeying your will.
May the money we give be in response to your graciousness.
Accept it all as part of our renewed commitment to Christ.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Will You Come and Follow Me” GtG 726 (*Verses 1, 4, & 5*)
(The Summons)

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

*The Summons, Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule, Tune
arr. by John L. Bell.
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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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