

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord...
All: **...for we know the Lord's mercy!**
One: Let us sing the praises of our God...
All: **...for we have seen God's greatness!**
One: So, let us join and sing...
All: **...of the blessings of the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Creator of Mountains" StF 2061

1. Creator of mountains, of glaciers and streams,
Great Splasher of fountains and Dreamer of dreams,
we gather in wonder and praise for your grace.
Responding, we ponder our work in this place.
2. Creator of peoples and races and tribes,
not bound by church steeples or what myth describes,
we celebrate now our diversity here,
in penitence vow to accept and not fear.
3. Created for caring for all human need,
we seek to be daring in thought and in deed.
Turn us from all strife that demeans or divides.
Reform us for life that empow'rs and abides.
4. Creator of river and forest and snow,
Eternal Life-giver whose presence we know,
your voice is resounding in storm, wind, and wave.
Your love is abounding, embracing to save.

(continued...)

**5. Great God, now we come, our hearts grateful for days
when faith, like a drum-beat, keeps steady our praise.
In song and rejoicing hopes stir and arise,
our spirits now voicing their hymns to the skies.**

*Creator of Mountains, Text by Jane Parker Huber. Copyright 1996,
Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press, All
rights reserved. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under
ONE LICENSE #A-739819. All rights reserved.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk melody; arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839.
Public Domain.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mystery, God of life,
we imagine that we are capable judges
of power and wisdom and goodness.
We trust our own standards;
we separate and categorize;
we mark the performance of others.
We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.
We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.
We confess that we have turned away from you
and have not lived with upright hearts.
Forgive us for failing to follow you.
Guide our feet to walk in your ways
and serve your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Romans 8)*

One: What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done,
nothing we will ever do,
is enough to separate us from the love of God
made known in Jesus Christ.
All: **We proclaim the good news and share this assurance: In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.**

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 13:31-33,44-52

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“Do You Really Want That Mustard Seed Growing in Your Garden?”

by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “As the Wind Song” GtG 292

1. As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power
to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2. As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love
to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 2004.

Music: Swee Hong Lim, 2004

Text and Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company.

Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.

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

**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.**

**We do not fully comprehend who God is or how he works.
God's reality far exceeds all our words can say.
The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best.
The Lord's care for us is not always what we want.
God comes to us on his own terms
and is able to do far more than we ask or think.**

**We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.
The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will
among all peoples of the earth.
We believe God works beyond our imagining
throughout the universe.**

“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

(including moments for silent prayer)

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Holy One, receive our offerings as you receive our lives.
We give out of the abundance of our hearts,
that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many.
Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known,
that our lives might show forth your glory;
for we pray in the name of Jesus
and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "God, Whose Glory Reigns Eternal" [Tune 490]

**1. God, whose glory reigns eternal,
Spanning space as well as time,
Show us signs in seed and kernel –
Life potential, hope sublime.
Grant us insight, all discerning,
Seeing truth beyond bare fact,
Love translating all our learning
Into pow'r to be and act.**

(continued...)

2. In Christ's healing touch and teaching,
We see life as you intend,
Selfless love to others reaching,
Pain and brokenness to end.
And when hungry folk are nourished,
Filled by hope and word and bread,
These are signs your reign has flourished
And from bondage we are led.

3. Now we ponder life's great myst'ry –
Suff'ring Savior, cross enthroned,
Past and future in one hist'ry –
Our mortality Christ owned.
And as resurrection's glory
Shines into the empty tomb,
We too tell the ancient story,
Joy dispelling all the gloom.

God, Whose Glory Reigns Eternal, Text by Jane Parker Huber. Copyright 1982 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press), All rights reserved. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-739819/#A-739796. All rights reserved.

Tune: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844. Public Domain.

Music Harm.: James H. Wood; © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services). *Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

The Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

The Prayer for Illumination is written by Jo Wiersema and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023.

The Prayers of the People (adapted) and the Prayer of Thanksgiving are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Connections Worship Companion*. Copyright 2023.