

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.  
**All: We come to God in humility and anticipation.**  
One: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
**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.**

*(continued...)*

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!**

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988. Copyright 1994 Hope  
Publishing Company

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941. Copyright 1942,  
ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

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

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

**We do indeed adore you, great God Almighty.  
You are powerful and unwavering.  
We are weak and faltering.  
Doubting your loving care,  
we grab for more than we need.  
Doubting your loving purposes,  
we shrink from living as your followers.  
Doubting your loving plan,  
we become stumbling blocks in your creation.  
We need you, O God, we need you.  
We need you to strengthen our feeble commitment.  
We need you to open our hearts to the world.  
We need you to forgive us our sins  
and restore us to faith in you and trust in your grace.  
Help us, O Lord,  
for the sake of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

##### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Psalm 103)*

One: "The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of  
constant love."

All: **"God knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust."**

One: "As a parent is kind to the children, so the Lord is kind to those who honor  
the Lord."

All: **So rejoice and be glad! For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus  
Christ 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** Exodus 3:1-12

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “Dare to Be Branded” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Christ of the Upward Way”

1. **Christ of the upward way,  
My guide divine,  
Where You have set Your feet  
May I place mine;  
And move and march wherever You have trod,  
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.**
  
2. **Give me the heart to hear  
Your voice and will,  
That without fault or fear  
I may fulfill  
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,  
Like one who would not bring less than the best.**
  
3. **Christ of the upward way,  
My guide divine,  
Where You have set Your feet  
May I place mine;  
And when Your last call comes serene and clear,  
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."**

Words: Walter John Mathams, ca. 1915; alt.  
Music: SURSUM CORDA (Lomas), George Lomas, 1876  
*Public Domain.*

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** Wondrous God...  
**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 thanks and praise we come before you, O God, mindful of your mercy toward us and your gifts to us. Accept these gifts we bring as reminders of our debt to you and our gratitude for you. Use them and us to touch the world with your powerful love and your stunning grace. For it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" GtG 494 (*Verses 1, 2, 4, & 5*)

1. **Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,  
thou fount of life, thou light of all,  
from the best bliss that earth imparts  
we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.**
2. **Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
thou savest those that on thee call;  
to them that seek thee thou art good,  
to them that find thee, all in all.**
4. **Our restless spirits yearn for thee,  
where'er our changeful lot is cast,  
glad when thy gracious smile we see,  
blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**
5. **O Jesus, ever with us stay;  
make all our moments calm and bright.  
O chase the night of sin away;  
shed o'er the world thy holy light.**

Words: Latin, 12<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.  
Music: QUEBEC, Henry Baker, 1854  
*Public Domain.*

## **\*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.**

Words: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986. Copyright 1990 Hope Publishing Company.

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

Music: TALLIS’ CANON, Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker’s *Whole Psalter*, ca. 1561. *Public Domain.*

## **POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayers of the People (adapted) are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013/2014.

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