

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Welcome, my friends. What brings you here today?
All: **We come to have our eyes open. We come to have our ears
unstopped. We come seeking the presence of God in our midst.**
One: Come, my friends, and see. The glory of God is manifest all about us.
God is in our midst and all around us.
All: **So come, let us rejoice, give thanks, and sing.**

***OPENING HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth” GtG 14**

1. **For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**
2. **For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**
3. **For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

(continued...)

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.
5. For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk,
1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
Public Domain.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we sing of your beauty and the grace of your giving, yet still we are blind to your working in our midst. We want quick answers and easy decisions, and we are frustrated when we discern neither. We expect you to lift our burdens, yet we do little to help carry the burdens of others. Forgive us for being slow to understand and immune to your presence. Open our hearts to your transforming power. Heal our blindness by your tender touch. Restore us as your people 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: God's mercy comes to us in our disobedience. God's gracious favor answers our cry for help.
- All: **God hears our complaining and provides for us in unexpected ways in the desert places of our lives.**
- One: Come to the saving waters. Taste the bread God gives us to eat. We are a people forgiven and blessed.
- All: **Thanks be to God!**

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 READINGS Exodus 16:2-15; 17:1-7

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Crisis of Food, Crisis of Faith” by Pastor Bill Vincent

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

**We believe in one true and living God.
We acknowledge one God alone,
whose demands on us are absolute,
whose help for us is sufficient.**

(continued...)

**That One is the Lord,
whom we worship, serve, and love.
God is greater than our understanding
We do not fully comprehend who God is or how God 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 God's own terms
and is able to do far more than we ask or think.**

“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: Providing 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*

Our offerings are an expression of our faith, O God. They tell of our thankfulness; they speak of blessings received and cheerfully shared. What a privilege is ours, what riches we possess, to be able to give with joy for the work of your church! We worship you with our offerings and the rededication of our lives and work to your will. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Let All Things Now Living” GtG 37

1. Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2. By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

Words: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.; © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

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Music: ASH GROVE, Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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