

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
28th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise be to God, O my soul! Let us praise God as long as we live.

**All: God is worthy of our time, talent, and treasure; we will sing
Praises to God forever.**

One: Happy are those who hope in God, who labor in steadfast faith
And love.

**All: We bring all that we are to this time of worship.
We bring that we are before God's presence.
Praise be to God!**

***OPENING HYMN "Give Praise to the Lord" GtG # 550 [Tune GtG 41]**

- 1. Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
a song to your Maker and Ruler now raise,
all children of Zion, rejoice and give praise.**
- 2. With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness, O God, we praise your great name;
for now in your people good pleasure you seek;
with robes of salvation you cover the meek.**
- 3. In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
with song in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.**
- 4. For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
But over the earth their power shall prevail;
All kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.**

Text: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909, alt.;

Music: Joseph M. Kraus, 1784, alt.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess, O God, that we make to-do lists but never fulfill the tasks most needed.
We have failed to share the joy of faith. We have worshipped false secular idols.
We have neglected to learn and pray and witness to your living presence among us.**

You have not received our full loyalty and devotion or our grateful and enthusiastic affirmation of your gift of undeserved grace. O God help us to refocus our energies and will toward you as our most important task.

[Silent Confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Exodus 32: 1-14, NRSV

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14, NRSV

SERMON

“We’re All Invited”

Rev. Jay Summerville

*HYMN “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation” *GtG* #503

- 1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.**
- 2. Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.** *Continued -- →*
- 3. When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt.

Music: Paris Antiphoner, 1681; harm. La Feillee’s Method du plainchant, 1808

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***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(Colossians 1:15-20)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and earth were created, things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. AMEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us pray to the Lord

All: ... Lord have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

Unison Congregations

**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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

Musical Reflection

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies and for your goodness in entrusting us with the bounty of the earth and the source of our sustenance. We thank you for all of your gifts, and humbly dedicate to your service our tithes, offerings, and talents, that your will may be done on earth as it is in Heaven. AMEN

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “O Love, That Wilt not Let Me Go” GtG # 833**

1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

Text: George Matheson, 1881, alt.

Music: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE