

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 106)*

One: Praise the Lord!
All: **Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.**
One: Remember us, O Lord,
when you show favor to your people;
All: **let us know the blessing of your chosen ones
and the gladness of those you love.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" GtG 619 *(Verses 1-3)*

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!
2. Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!
3. Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!

(next page...)

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven, Text by Henry Francis Lyte, 1834;
adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974.
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Music: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, 1869. Public Domain.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The praise of your name is still on our lips, O Lord, even as we turn to confess our sin to you. When we perceive your mercy and patience, we know we are not merciful, we are not patient. As we come to know your loving kindness, we know we are not loving, and we are not very kind. Forgive us, gracious God. Mold us into your faithful people. Transform us according to your grace. And lead us in the way of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Psalm 103)*

One: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."
All: **"The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."**
One: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who revere God."
All: **"As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us."**
One: Rejoice in God's greatness and grace toward us!
All: **For 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 Exodus 32:1-14

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "What Moses Taught God" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” GtG 649 (*Verses 1-4*)

1. **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
4. **The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Text: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772.

Music: AMAZING GRACE, *Columbian Harmony*,
1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

(continued...)

Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: We give ourselves to you...
All: ...God of 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*

By your grace, you have chosen us, O God. By your grace, you have
showered us with blessings in abundance. By your grace, accept the gifts we
offer to you. By your grace, teach us to give even as you have given to us.
Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" GtG 475

(next page...)

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813.
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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