

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.  
All: **The One we call God is beyond human description.**  
One: God is more than we can ever imagine.  
All: **We sense God's presence as we meditate.**  
One: The Creator of all things has given us life.  
All: **We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" GtG 12

1. **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**
2. **Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**
3. **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**
4. **Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

*(next page...)*

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.  
Tune: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839  
*Public Domain.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come before you gladly, dear God,  
for you are wonderful and we worship you.  
We also come before you sadly,  
for we know we have not done what you want us to do,  
we know we have not said what you want us to say,  
we know we have not lived the lives you desire us to live.  
Yet we also come before you trusting in your love and grace.  
Forgive us, O God, for our sinful ways.  
Renew us and restore us in the likeness of Jesus Christ.  
And make us glad once again to follow in his way.  
For it is in his name that 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 33:12-23

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “No Peeking!” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “O God, in a Mysterious Way” GtG 30

1. **O God, in a mysterious way  
great wonders you perform.  
You plant your footsteps in the sea  
and ride upon the storm.**
2. **Deep in unfathomable mines  
of never-failing skill,  
you treasure up your bright designs  
and work your sovereign will.**
3. **O fearful saints, fresh courage take.  
The clouds you so much dread  
are big with mercy and shall break  
in blessings on your head.**
4. **Our unbelief is sure to err  
and scan your work in vain.  
You are your own interpreter,  
and you will make it plain.**

Words: William Cowper, 1773, alt.  
Tune: DUNDEE, Scottish Psalter, 1615  
*Public Domain.*

**\*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.  
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.**

*(next page...)*

“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:**           Awesome, wonder-filled God...  
**All:**           ...hear our prayer.

## **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*

**We thank you, O God,  
for the forgiveness we receive from you,  
for the hope we have in you, and  
for the life we know with you.  
In thanks and praise we offer our gifts  
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 “God of the Sparrow” GtG 22**

1. **God of the sparrow**  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise
  
2. **God of the earthquake**  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save
  
3. **God of the rainbow**  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks
  
4. **God of the hungry**  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life
  
5. **God of the neighbor**  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace
  
6. **God of the ages**  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

*(next page...)*

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale.*  
*Text by Jaroslav J. Vajda.*  
*Copyright 1983, Concordia Publishing House, All rights reserved.*  
*Tune (ROEDER) by Carl Schalk.*  
*Copyright 1983, GIA Publications, Inc., All rights reserved.*  
*Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE*  
*#A-739819/#A-739796. All rights reserved.*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1998 by United Church Press.

The Prayers of the People (adapted) are written by Carol Holbrook Prickett and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023.