

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on II Corinthians 13 & Psalm 34)*

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us give thanks this day for God's wonderful goodness.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: "O taste and see that the Lord is good;"

All: "happy are those who take refuge in God."

One: With hearts and hands and voices,

All: let us praise the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" GtG 804

1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
2. With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
3. Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

(continued...)

4. At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
5. Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865
Tune: MARION, Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us your own children and cover us with your love. We would seek to be merciful as you are, and to show compassion as you do, but we fail to live the life to which we have been called. We exalt ourselves while evaluating and judging others. We assume too much and don't invest enough in listening, learning, and seeking to understand. You call us to humility, yet we resist, puffing ourselves up with prideful arrogance and rigid certainty. Forgive our sinful ways. Soften our hearts, tame our wayward wills, and make us more like Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers,
God has made a way where there was no way.
All: In Christ Jesus evil and death have been vanquished,
and we live in a state of grace.
One: Believe the gospel:
All: 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 Joshua 3:7-17

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Arks Among Us” 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
Tune: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

(continued...)

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Today's translation of the Apostles' Creed is reprinted by permission from Book of Common Worship, copyright 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.)

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS: “For All the Saints” StF 2283

**1. For all the saints who've shown your love
in how they live and where they move,
for mindful wo-men, caring men,
accept our gra-titude again.**

Lighting a Candle for Family

**2. For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gra-titude, good Lord.**

Lighting a Candle for Friends

**3. For all the saints who named your will,
and showed the king-dom coming still
through selfless pro-test, prayer, and praise,
accept the gra-titude we raise.**

Lighting a Candle for Others

**4. Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.**

(next page...)

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Tune: O WALY WALY, English folk melody. *Public Domain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Let your Word be at work in us, gracious God, and through the offerings we present for your blessing. We offer here our support for the work of teaching, preaching, and good counsel, our assistance for those who are burdened and hungry and lost, our encouragement for questioners, seekers, and risk-takers intent on leading a life worthy of your approval. We are all your students, your children. Let us also be your humble servants, through the offering of our substance and ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The prayer continues...)

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please partake of both elements as you are served, remembering Christ is with you.)

Sing “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” GtG 516

- 1. For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**
- 2. By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**
- 3. With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**
- 4. In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

Words: Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924, alt.
Tune: KINGDOM, V. Earle Copes, 1959
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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” GtG 730

- 1. I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.**

(continued...)

**And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.**

- 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.**
- 3. They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.**

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***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.**

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POSTLUDE

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