

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    *(from Psalm 62)*

One:            "For God alone my soul waits in silence."  
All:            **"God alone is my rock and my salvation."**  
One:            "Trust in the Lord at all times, O people."  
All:            **"God is a refuge for us."**  
One:            "Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:..."  
All:            **"...That power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord."**

**\*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...)*

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974.

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## 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. We say we obey you, but our deeds betray us. By your grace, forgive us, heal us, and lead us back to you, that we might show mercy to others even as we know mercy from you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Psalm 103)*

One: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast 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 Jonah (selected verses)

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SERMON "Not Me, Not This, Not Yet" by Pastor Bill Vincent

### \*HYMN "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" GtG 69 (Here I Am, Lord)

*(next page...)*

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain:*

**Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. **I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

*(Refrain)*

3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

*(Refrain)*

Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981, alt.

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Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

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

**Christ calls us to be disciples.**

**In forming his people and sending them into the world**

**Jesus called individuals to be disciples.**

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,**

**to understand and obey his teachings,**

**and to follow him in life and death.**

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.**

**Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ**

**is God's undeserved gift to each of us.**

**It is also God's demand upon every one of us,**

**never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.**

**Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,**

**we strive to become more faithful and effective**

**in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

“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*.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

One: “There are varieties of gifts.”

All: **“But it is the same Spirit who gives them.”**

One: “There are varieties of service.”

All: **“But it is the same Lord who is served.”**

One: “There are varieties of working.”

All: **“But it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.”**

One: “Each one is given a gift by the Spirit...”

All: **“...To use it for the common good.”**

One: “Together we are the body of Christ...”

All: **“...And individually members of him.”**

*(from I Corinthians 12)*

Constitutional Questions to Officers

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation

*Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?*

*Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?*

Prayer

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

One: As we lift up our prayers to you...

All: **.....our souls wait in silence.**

## **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. Use them and us for your holy work of transformation, as we seek to go where Jesus leads us, where Jesus calls us. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**    "O Jesus, I Have Promised"    GtG 724

**1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**2. O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle;  
the tempting sounds I hear.**

*(continued...)*

**My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer  
and shield my soul from sin.**

**3. O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.**

Words: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.  
Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur Henry Mann, 1881  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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