

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to give thanks and sing!
All: **We come in remembrance of all that God has done for us.**
One: All around us the world shouts God's praises!
All: **Let us join in the song of thanksgiving to God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" GtG 20

Refrain: **All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

1. **Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.**
(Refrain)

2. **The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:**
(Refrain)

3. **The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.**
(Refrain)

(continued...)

4. **God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.**
(Refrain)

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt. *Public Domain.*

Music: ROYAL OAK, English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915.
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is, and we give you thanks and praise. But we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We turn from your ways and do as we please. We bear grudges against those who deceive us. We seek revenge on those who hurt us. We are kind only to those who are kind to us, and we fail to love all people, even as you love us all. Forgive us, kind and gracious God. Love us and transform our hearts that we might reflect you and your way in our lives. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God does love us. We know this for certain because of Jesus Christ.

All: **In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner and loves the world.**

One: So let us hear and believe this wonderful, good news.

All: **That in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ we are loved. 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 READINGS Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Mark 1:29-39

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

All: a time to be born,

One: and a time to die;

All: a time to plant,

One: and a time to pluck up what is planted;

All: a time to kill,

One: and a time to heal;

All: a time to break down,

One: and a time to build up;

All: a time to weep,

One: and a time to laugh;

All: a time to mourn,

One: and a time to dance;

All: a time to throw away stones,

One: and a time to gather stones together;

All: a time to embrace,

One: and a time to refrain from embracing;

All: a time to seek,

One: and a time to lose;

All: a time to keep,

One: and a time to throw away;

All: a time to tear,

One: and a time to sew;

All: a time to keep silence,

One: and a time to speak;

All: a time to love,

One: and a time to hate;

All: a time for war,

One: and a time for peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Wisdom of the Rhythm” by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN “Take Time to Be Holy”

**1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always and feed on his word.
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak;
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

(continued...)

**2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.**

**3. Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**

**4. Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul --
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

Words: William D. Longstaff, ca. 1882

Music: LONGSTAFF/HOLINESS, George C. Stebbins, 1890
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE “Kum ba Yah” GtG 472

**1. *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

(continued...)

2. Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!
3. Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!
4. Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

*Come by here.

Words and Music: African American spiritual
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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*

Dear God, in joy we proclaim your name. In thanksgiving we serve your purposes. In gratitude we offer ourselves and our gifts -- all that we have and all that we are -- to you and your work in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” GtG 546

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us,
O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful,
ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
3. Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever,
may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey Thring, 1880, alt.

Music: Sicilian melody, 18th cent.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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