

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 118)*

One: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."
All: **We praise the Lord who blesses us.**
One: We come in thanksgiving.
All: **We come with song.**
One: We come in anticipation of the Lord's coming to us.
All: **"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

***OPENING HYMN** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" GtG 197 *(Verses 1 & 3)*

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.
3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

Words: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl:
Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt.
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have often acted out of selfish ambition and vain conceit.
We have allowed envy and self-interest to guide our actions,
rather than the wisdom and care that comes from above.
Forgive us for the times we have caused conflicts and quarrels
among ourselves and others.
Take from us all the bitterness, envy, and anger
that stands in the way of your reign.
Forgive us,
and call us to faithfulness.
Nurture us with your love and forgiveness,
that we might submit ourselves to you,
draw near to your grace, and
share what we have been given,
for the common good of all your children. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on Psalm 8)*

One: What are we that God is mindful of us?
Who are we that God should care for us?
Yet God now calls us beloved children.
All: **Jesus embraces us in grace
and comforts us with mercy.
Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers.**
One: This is the good news of God's grace:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
We are children of God!
Thanks be to God!**

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
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 Mark 9:30-37
Mark 10:13-16

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Receiving What? ... or Whom?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “like a child” StF 2092

**1. like a child love would send
to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes.
like a child we may find
claiming heart, soul, and mind,
like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes.**

**2. like a child we will meet,
ragged clothes, dirty feet,
like a child on the street,
Jesus comes.
like a child we once knew
coming back into view,
like a child born anew,
Jesus comes.**

**3. like a child born to pray
and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes.
like a child we receive
all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe,
Jesus comes.**

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

**Christ calls us to live for our neighbors.
Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor
to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.
His life in behalf of others
led to persecution and death.
He commanded his disciples to live the same way.**

(continued...)

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures
as our neighbors on this planet.**

**Christ teaches us
to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.**

**It is part of our discipline
to live in simplicity,
avoiding greed and luxury
that threaten our neighbor's survival.**

**We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies,
to accept the risk and pain
which love involves.**

“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: Lord, in your mercy...
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 for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord,
and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you.
Transform these gifts into signs of welcome
for all who are touched by their use.
And transform us into people
who embody the spirit of humility and service
that Christ himself has witnessed among us.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” GtG 203

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.
(Refrain)**
- 2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away.
(Refrain)**
- 3. These are the ones we should serve;
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.
(Refrain)**
- 4. Loving puts us on our knees,
willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you.
(Refrain)**

(next page...)

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arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

***RESPONSE** “Make Me a Servant” StF 2176

**Make me a servant,
humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up
those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant,
make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

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POSTLUDE

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