

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: O God, who will You invite into the abode of your Heart?
Who will dwell with You in Love?
- All: **One who walks with integrity, who is in harmony with
your Word, and sings the heart's song.**
- One: Whose tongue speaks truth, judging not others and
seeking only the Good.
- All: **Whose eyes behold not the outer garments of the body,
but see within the inner robe of Love.**
- One: Whose own weaknesses are acknowledged, and brought
to light in prayer.
- All: **Who is just in all affairs of life and does not take
advantage of another.**
- One: One who does all these things will join in the Dance of
Life and will sing the Song of Joy!
Let us worship the Lord our God.

***OPENING HYMN** “How Happy Are the Saints of God” GtG 457

1. **How happy are the saints of God
who do not heed the wicked way;
delighting in the holy Word
they seek God's wisdom night and day.**
2. **Like deeply rooted trees,
they stand beside an ever-flowing stream.
Their fruit is plentiful and good;
their leaves are always growing green.**

(continued...)

- 3. While wicked ones are whisked away
like straw before the driving wind,
the saints are firmly planted still,
and God will keep them to the end.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess that we are not always the community
God wants us to be, nor whom we aspire to be.
Gracious God, we have not loved You with our whole
heart, mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
We have sought false happiness in superficial thing of this world.
And we have neglected to seek eternal happiness in a life centered in you.
Lord have mercy.
We have been too easily seduced by easy answers, half-truths
and false judgements.
We have failed to seek your Truth.
Christ have mercy.
We have ignored the cries of the poor, the groans of a hurting world,
and have been indifferent to the exploitation of peoples.
Lord have mercy.
Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. Forgive,
restore and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love, and serve only your will.**

AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

PASSING 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.)

***RESPONSE** Refrain from “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” GtG 591 sung twice

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Words: Ref., trad. liturgical text; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990;
Music: HALLE, HALLE, Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas Marty Haugen, 1990
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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 1 NRSV

THE GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37 NRSV

MESSAGE “The Calm Repose of a Blessed Soul” by **Pastor Jay Summerville**

***HYMN** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” GtG 377

- 1. I want to walk as a child of the light.**
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2. I want to see the brightness of God.**
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

(continued...)

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

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MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING

Words of Offering

Pastor

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offering for your glory
and the service of your kingdom.

All: Blessed be God forever. AMEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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;**

(continued...)

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Q1. The Heidelberg Catechism*)

Q1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A. That I am not my own
but belong- body and soul – in life and in death –
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious
blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair
can fall from my head without the will of my Father in
heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my good.**

**Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal
life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and
ready from now on to live for him.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Blest Are They" GtG 172

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

2. **Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

3. **Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs;
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.**

Refrain

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

4. **Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.**

Refrain

5. **Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad;
yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.**

Refrain

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***SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

POSTLUDE