

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come one and all to meet God here.
All: **We have come that God might raise us up.**
One: Come, all who are weary and oppressed.
All: **God hears our prayers...and offers relief.**
One: God's glory abides in this place of worship.
All: **God's presence and help are real.**
One: Come together to sing songs of praise to God.
All: **Give thanks for God's wondrous deeds.**

***OPENING HYMN** "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us" GtG 436

1. God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.

2. Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

3. How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?

Words: John J. Moment, 1933, alt.
Music: O QUANTA QUALIA, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681;
harm. La Feillee's *Methode du plain-chant*, 1808
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You promise to guide us in life, O God, but we're not sure. Our steps to follow you are tentative. Our commitment to learn from you is half-hearted. Our faith in you is weak. Forgive us, gracious God. Be patient with our weaknesses and tender in your correction. Assure us of your loving presence. Rekindle within us the fire of faith made sure and certain through the power of your Spirit. For it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord is indeed a God of mercy and compassion. 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 that good news once again.

All: **For by the grace of God we are loved and accepted, forgiven and restored through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.**

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 READING Mark 9:14-29

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" GtG 829

1. **My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

(continued...)

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou has died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!
3. While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.
4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

Words: Ray Palmer, 1830

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1831, alt.

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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.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: So we believe...
All: ...help our unbelief.

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*

Thank you, gracious God, for walking with us and providing for us
and loving us all along the way. We bring these offerings to you as tokens of
our gratitude and symbols of the offering of our lives in thanksgiving to you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" StF 2191 [*Tune 321*]

1. Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain 'round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

(continued...)

**2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

**3. Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

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Music: AURELIA, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864. *Public Domain.*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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