

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to be refreshed and renewed for the journey of life.
All: **We come to embrace the one who embraces us.**
One: Come, people of God, to hear again the call to discipleship.
All: **We come to hear God speak and to relish the presence of the Lord.**
One: Come, people of God, come.
All: **We come in joy to worship the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” GtG 663

1. **Awake, my soul, and with the sun
your daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay your morning sacrifice.**
2. **Lord, I my vows to you renew.
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
guard my first springs of thought and will,
and with yourself my spirit fill.**
3. **Direct, control, suggest, this day,
all I design or do or say,
that all my powers, with all their might,
in your sole glory may unite.**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, alt.

Music: MORNING HYMN, Francois Hippolyte Barthelemon,
1785; harm. *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*, 1917
Public Domain.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, who is faithful and just,
forgive us, for we are quick to forget
that all of life is in your hands.
We have failed to help those who have little
while we have much.
We have failed to appreciate the gifts you have given.
We are afraid for ourselves and our world,
and grasp for whatever security we can find.
We shake our heads at the evil around us
but do little to witness to a better way.
Your law is seldom consulted,
and your pathways of self-sacrificing love rarely explored.
Turn us around, God.
Forgive us,
and lead us to a humble path.
Renew our hope, increase our courage,
and keep us watchful for the signs
of your just and peaceful reign that is to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 1)*

All: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."
All: **"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing."**
One: By confessing our sins we speak the truth, trusting in God's grace and mercy. So let us rejoice and give thanks for the goodness and mercy of God.
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are restored and forgiven. 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 13:1-11,21-37

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Expectations? Beware!...and Keep Alert!” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Be Still, My Soul” GtG 819

1. **Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**
2. **Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**
3. **Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Words: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.
Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “*A Declaration of Faith*”)

**Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom
and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms.
He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.
Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey
all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.
No more than Christ are we spared
the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.**

(continued...)

**We are in the world, but not of the world.
Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people
do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,
but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.**

“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: Trusting in your mercy, O Lord...
All: ...hear us and receive us.

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*

**How can we thank you, O God, for all that you have done?
You give us life; you give us hope; you give us your very self.**

(continued...)

**Take our offerings – and our very selves – that your will may be done
in our church, in our community,
and throughout your wide and beautiful world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “My Life Flows On” GtG 821**

**1. My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain:

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?**

Refrain:

**3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.**

Refrain:

**4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?**

Refrain:

Words and Music (HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING): Robert Lowry, 1869
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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