

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our hope is in God who made heaven and earth.
All: **All creatures of the land and sea come from God.**
One: We will praise God as long as we live.
All: **We will sing of God's glory all through our lives.**
One: God is here!
All: **We are here!**
Unison: **Together, let us join in the worship of God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "God Is Here!" GtG 409

1. **God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**
2. **Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**
3. **Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.**

**Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

- 4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we come before you a broken people in a broken world.
We confess we have ignored, yet again, your assured presence.
We have forged our own paths and charted our own waters.
In the name of independence
we have ignored your aid, your comfort, and your peace.
We have called upon you in desperation
rather than recalling your mighty and faithful acts in all times and places.
Forgive us, O God.
Turn us back to you,
and by your grace
restore in us the image and work of your grace;
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**One: Hear the good news! The Lord is loving, merciful, and just.
All: Through grace Christ gives us eternal comfort and good hope.
One: Be assured: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another,
that we might walk in peace and love.**

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 12:13-34

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Questions! Questions?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “More Like You” StF 2167 & “Love the Lord Your God” GtG 62

**More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Fill my heart with your desire
to make me more like you.
More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Touch my lips with holy fire
and make me more like you.**

**Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God
with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God
with all your mind.
Love the Lord your God
with all that you are.**

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

**We acknowledge one God alone,
whose demands on us are absolute,
whose help for us is sufficient.
That One is the Lord,
whom we worship, serve, and love.**

We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.

**We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.
We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.**

**To worship God is highest joy.
To serve God is perfect freedom.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: O Lord, we lift up our prayer to you...
All: ...answer us and guide us by your presence.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Bless these gifts, O Lord,
from your unfailing care for your people.
Let them be a sign of our gladness
for all that we have
and all that we may offer to others;
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The prayer continues...)

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Sing “In the Singing” GtG 533

**1. In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in the Presence at this table
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

**2. In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart’s cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “We Are One in the Spirit” GtG 300

**1. We are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:**

Refrain:

**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land:**

(Refrain)

**3. We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
we will work with each other;
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride:**

(Refrain)

**4. All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one:**

(Refrain)

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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