

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**SECOND SUNDAY in LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- One: Put away your hesitation to come before God;  
quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.
- All: God is our light and our salvation;  
whom shall we fear?**
- One: Look to the heavens for inspiration and assurance;  
look around you, for God's presence is everywhere.
- All: Let us watch and wait with our Creator;  
let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.**
- One: So, come, people of God, come.
- All: We come in joy to worship the Lord.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "The God of Abraham Praise" GtG 49 (*Verses 1, 2, & 4*)

1. The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days,  
the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I Am,  
by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name,  
forever blest.
2. Your spirit still flows free,  
high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old  
and you speak still.  
Established is your law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart  
by your strong hand.

*(continued...)*

4. **You have eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God!  
We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought,  
and still the same!**

Words: Moses Maimonides, 12<sup>th</sup> cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404;  
stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, ca. 1770, alt.; stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max  
Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.  
Music: LEONI, Jewish melody, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas  
Olivers, 1770  
*Public Domain*

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We rejoice in you, O God, yet we too often do not follow you. We hear your  
promise, but do not heed your word. You have shown us your way, and we have  
chosen another -- our own. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Forgive us for our lack of  
trust and commitment. Help us to believe your word of hope. Enable us to put our  
trust in you and live by your grace and promise. For we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

##### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Psalm 103)*

One: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love."  
All: **"The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us  
according to our iniquities."**  
One: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast  
love toward those who revere God."  
All: **"As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our  
transgressions from us."**  
One: Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in  
Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.  
All: **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** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “What About Tomorrow?” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee” GtG 816

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee,  
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,  
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,  
to bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
builds on the rock that nought can move.
2. Only be still, and wait God's leisure  
in cheerful hope, with heart content  
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure  
and all discerning love hath sent.  
No doubt our inmost wants are clear  
to One who holds us always dear.
3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,  
but do thine own part faithfully.  
Trust the rich promises of grace;  
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.  
God never yet forsook at need  
the soul secured by trust indeed.

Words: Georg Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863, alt.  
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1641  
*Public Domain*

**\*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.

*(continued...)*

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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: We pray to the Lord.  
All: Lord, have mercy.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

#### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. It is a joy to present our offerings, for we are as blessed in our giving as we have been in receiving abundant goodness from your hand. May you multiply our gifts for the work of your church in the world, to further Christ's ministry and mission. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Wherever I May Wander"

- 1. Wherever I may wander,  
wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love;  
God's care is over me.  
God made the great high mountains,  
and made the wide blue sea;  
God made the sky where airplanes fly;  
God made the world, and me.**
- 2. Throughout the whole creation  
I see God's loving care  
for everyone in every land,  
God's children everywhere.  
Wherever I may wander,  
wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love;  
God's care is over me.**

Words: Ann B. Snow, 1959 © 1963 by W.L. Jenkins; from *Songs and Hymns for Primary Children*, published by Westminster Press, *All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-739819. All rights reserved.*

Music: NEW ENGLAND, New England folk melody. *Public Domain*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**\*RESPONSE** "Go with Us, Lord" GtG 748

*(next page...)*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Words: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986 © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #20702248.*

Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, ca. 1561  
*Public Domain*

## **POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Gathered by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press.

The Assurance of Pardon, Prayer for Illumination, Prayers of the People (adapted), and Prayer of Dedication are written by Teri McDowell Ott and used by permission. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2025.

The Prayers of the People (adapted) are used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.