

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Come, people of God, to give thanks and sing.
All: **We come from our various lives to offer ourselves in this time of worship.**
One: Come, children of God, to be touched and blessed.
All: **We come in anticipation of God's presence here and God's work in our midst.**
One: Come, servants of God, to be taught and commissioned.
All: **We come to be instilled with purpose and filled with a mission.**
Unison: **We come to worship the Lord our God.**

***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
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We have seen your glory, O Lord, but falter in following.
We have heard your word, but turn away.
We are confused and stumble in our choices.
Look tenderly upon us with your mercy.
Forgive us our foolhardiness.
Encourage our timid hearts.
Strengthen our faith.
And guide us in your way by the light of your glory.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In this is love, that God gives us the gift of Jesus Christ to remind us of the truth of Immanuel: that God is with us.
All: **So rejoice and be glad, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven; in Jesus Christ we are loved – always.**

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 Luke 9:28-36

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “On the Threshold of Lent” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory” GtG 190

- 1. Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.**

(continued...)

2. Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Savior
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.
3. Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines,
and recast our life's intentions
to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985 © 1994, Oxford University Press, *All rights reserved.*

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

**In forming his people and sending them into the world
Jesus called individuals to be disciples.
They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings,
and to follow him in life and death.
We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.
It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.
Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

“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: To you, O Lord, we pray.
All: Answer us with mercy.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Living Christ,
we offer these humble gifts as tokens of our thanks,
and as signs of our hope in the world you are creating.
In your hands and with our hands
may these gifts be transformed in your service,
to establish justice, righteousness, and equity,
all for the good of your people
and the glory of your eternal realm. 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 (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.**

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.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” GtG 451

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
2. **Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**
3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Words and Music (OPEN MY EYES): Clara H. Scott, 1895
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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