

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 126, Isaiah 43, and Philippians 3)*

One: Come before the Lord in thanksgiving and with song.  
Come to discover the all-embracing love of God.  
**All: God's Spirit is moving among us; give thanks!**  
One: We come to offer our praise to God and to be blessed by God.  
**All: God has done great things for us; we are glad!**  
One: Into the wilderness of our lives comes living water.  
Into the sorrow of our days comes reason for joy.  
**All: Forgetting what lies behind, we greet our future;  
we press on, responding to the upward call of Christ.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" GtG 65

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty.  
Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

*(continued...)*

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams,  
1771; stanzas 2-3, trans. William Williams, 1772  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907  
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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 and uncertain.  
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 *(based on II Corinthians 5 and Philippians 3)*

One: The Lord has done great things for us.  
All: **Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ,  
we are renewed, and we are made whole.**  
One: Hear the good news!  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.  
All: **Forgetting what lies behind,  
and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.**  
One: Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

### 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** Philippians 3:12-14

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** “When a Step Backwards Is a Step in the Right Direction” by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “Fight the Good Fight” GtG 846

1. **Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.**
2. **Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**
3. **Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.  
God's boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**
4. **Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.  
God changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, ca. 1793  
*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 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!"**

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

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** To you, O Lord, we pray on our way:  
**All:** Grant us your courage, your hope, your peace.

## **THE EUCHARIST**

### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**God of all gifts,  
we are grateful for the many ways you continue to provide for us.  
We offer a portion of these gifts today.  
Receive these offerings as the outpouring of our gratitude.  
May your purposes be served and your will be done  
through the use of these gifts and the giving of ourselves.  
In Christ's name we pray. 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 in Christ.)

**Sing** "Feed Us, Lord" GtG 501

**1. Feed us, Lord.  
Feed us, Lord.  
In the broken bread,  
be revealed again.  
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

**3. Fill us, Lord.  
Fill us, Lord,  
with the bread and wine  
of the risen Christ.  
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.**

(Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

**2. Quench us, Lord.  
Quench us, Lord.  
On this thirsty ground,  
may your love flow down.  
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.**

*(continued...)*

**4. Lead us, Lord.  
Lead us, Lord,  
nourished here by Christ,  
given strength for life.  
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.**

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*Prayer*

### **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Christ of the Upward Way”

- 1. Christ of the upward way,  
my guide divine,  
where you have set your feet  
may I place mine;  
and move and march wherever you have trod,  
keeping face forward up the hill of God.**
- 2. Give me the heart to hear  
your voice and will,  
that without fault or fear  
I may fulfill  
your purpose with a glad and holy zest,  
like one who would not bring less than the best.**
- 3. Christ of the upward way,  
my guide divine,  
where you have set your feet  
may I place mine;  
and when your last call comes serene and clear,  
calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."**

Words: Walter John Mathams, ca. 1915; alt.  
Music: SURSUM CORDA (Lomas), George Lomas, 1876  
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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

**\*RESPONSE** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” GtG 546 (*Verse 1*)

**1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us,  
O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.**

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey Thring, 1880, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.  
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**POSTLUDE**

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