

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from all walks of life.
All: **We come as seemingly different people.**
One: Yet we come with a common purpose:
All: **To worship the Lord our God.**
One: So come to give thanks and sing.
All: **Come to know God's glory.**
One: Come to be filled and refreshed by the God who is faithful in words,
gracious in deeds, just in all ways, and kind in all that God does.
All: **We come to worship the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** “At the Font We Start Our Journey” StF 2114 [*Tune 619*]

1. At the font we start our journey,
in the Easter faith baptized;
doubts and fears no longer blind us,
by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope held out and realized.

2. At the pulpit we are fashioned
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets,
by the power of Christ made bold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.

3. At the table we are nourished
with the Easter gift of bread;
in our breaking it to pieces
see the love of Christ outspread.

(continued...)

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Life embraced, yet freely shed.

**4. At the door we are commissioned,
now the Easter victory's won,
to restore a world divided
to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter's work must still be done.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come together, O Lord.
We come to you.
We come in need.
For though we have started the journey,
we have not followed through very well.
When your way becomes difficult,
we fall to the wayside.
When your word is unclear,
we choose another.
When your voice is hard to hear,
we don't even listen.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Lift us up and restore us by your grace.
Nourish and strengthen us by the presence of your Spirit.
And renew our commitment to follow in your way and walk by your side.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Behold: God's grace flows like a river of new life.
All: **God's promises are trustworthy and true.**
One: Friends, hear the good news:
All: **Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**
One: Be at peace to serve the Lord,
and may you always be known
by the love which even now embraces you.

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 Acts 11:1-18

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “God’s *#@! Profanity” by Pastor Bill Vincent

*HYMN “Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother?” StF 2225

1. Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:

**Spirit-blown people, born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.**

2. Differently abled, differently labeled

widen the circle round Jesus Christ:

**Crutches and stigmas, cultures’ enigmas
all come together round Jesus Christ.**

3. Love will relate us – color or status

can’t segregate us, round Jesus Christ:

**Family failings, human derailings –
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.**

4. Bound by one vision, met for one mission

we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:

**Here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music (KINDRED): Jack Schrader

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another.

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves.

(from The Confession of 1967, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions; Inclusive Language Version © 2002 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation on behalf of the Office of Theology and Worship All rights reserved.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Embracing God,...
All: ...hear our prayer.

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*

**Wonderful God, we thank you
for your embrace and welcome of us,
and for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us
in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.
Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.
May they be a testament to your love for us
as we share them in love for you;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Let Us Build a House” GtG 301 (*Verses 1, 4 & 5*)
(All Are Welcome)

**1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.**

**4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.**

**5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.**

(continued...)

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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