

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: 'Who are you?'

All: **'I am a child of God.'**

One: 'What does it mean to be a child of God?'

All: **'That I belong to God, who loves me.'**

One: So come, to worship the God to whom you belong, the God who loves you, the God who calls you.

All: **We come in joy to worship the Lord our God.**

***OPENING HYMN** "We Are God's People" StF 2220 (*Verses 1-3*)

1. We are God's people,
the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit,
established by the Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
and strong in Christ we stand;
O let us live transparently
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

2. We are God's loved ones,
the Bride of Christ, our Lord,
for we have known it,
the love of God out-poured.
Now let us learn how to return
the gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care
and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

(continued...)

**3. We are the body
of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey Christ,
now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family
diverse, yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God
and so shall God's work on earth be done.**

Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech

Music: SYMPHONY, Johannes Brahms, arr. by Fred Bock

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come as your people, O God, to sing your praise, to learn from you, to be filled by you. Yet even as we come we confess that your ways have left us puzzled, and in our ignorance we have chosen our own path. We have relegated you to one hour on Sunday and tend to forget you the rest of the week. Then we dare wonder why we feel so strung out, worn down, and empty. We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do, turning away from those who are different from us, and so excluding rather than embracing, even as we have been embraced. Forgive us, precious and gracious God. Fill our lives anew with the fire of your Spirit. Attune us to your will and your way. Renew our hearts with a passion to love you and our neighbor, not just this day but every day. In the name of our Risen Lord we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord is a God of mercy and compassion. God does love us. We know this for certain because of Jesus Christ.

All: **In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner and loves the world.**

One: So let us hear and believe this wonderful, good news.

All: **That in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ we are loved. Alleluia! 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 John 21:1-19

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “The Church of 1-5-3” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Welcoming God” [*Tune 839*]

**1. Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
when the disciples just urged them away.**

**Children are welcome at Jesus’ knee:
God’s own examples for ministry.
Welcoming God, you open the Way;
even the smallest worship and pray,
singing with faith and serving you well,
your life to know and good news to tell.**

**2. Women are welcome, as are the men;
through God’s own Spirit, we’re partners again.**

**Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
no more divided -- made one in you.
Welcoming God, you open the way;
those once divided join now to pray,
serving at Table, preaching your Word,
so that your love for all will be heard.**

**3. Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
eating with Jesus and being made new:
some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.**

**God of great love, you stand at the door,
welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be
filled with the joy of your jubilee.**

**4. So may we welcome into our pew
all who in Jesus are being made new --
all those who seek him, wanting to know,
wanting to love him, wanting to grow.**

(continued...)

**Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
as someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.**

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***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.**

**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: Calling God...
All: ...sustain us in your way.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Thank you, O God, for the goodness of life in all its varied forms. We offer you ourselves, heart, mind, and soul, in gratitude for all you have given us and all you have done for us. May these offerings we bring remind us of our commitment to you and your life. Use them, and us, to share your love and embrace your world. 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 (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

(You are invited to go ahead and partake of each of the elements as you are served, remembering how Christ welcomes you.)

Sing "We Gather Here in Jesus' Name" GtG 510

(next page...)

**1. We gather here
in Jesus' name;
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son
the Father makes us one:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

**(1) No one is a stranger here;
everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

**2. He joins us here;
he breaks the bread;
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most
is now our gracious host:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

**(2) We are now a family,
of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.**

**3. We'll gather soon
where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate
the feast for which we wait:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” StF 2237 [Tune 498]

**1. As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbors everywhere.**

**2. We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit
we would live to God's delight.**

**3. As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
`mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.**

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

One: For Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

POSTLUDE

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