

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 42)*

One: “As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.”
**All: “My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.”**
One: We lift up our eyes to see God’s wonders.
All: We open our ears to receive God’s message.
One: Sing to God with great thanksgiving.
All: How good it is to sing praises to our God!
One: Worship God who is from everlasting to everlasting!
All: God rules all time and space, yet cares about us.
One: Praise God with the best you have to offer.
All: How expansive is God’s understanding of us!
One: God is pleased with all who reflect steadfast love.
All: We come in our need to worship God indeed.

***OPENING HYMN** “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” GtG 314
(Christ, Be Our Light)

**1. Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth,
we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.**

**2. Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope,
many despair.
Your word alone
has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

Refrain:

**3. Longing for food,
many are hungry.
Longing for water,
many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

Refrain:

**4. Longing for shelter,
many are homeless.
Longing for warmth,
many are cold.
Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

Refrain:

**5. Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts
that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants
to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Refrain:

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
you call and call,
and we come up with every excuse why we can't answer,
at least not right now.**

**We confess that we have
sinned against you and our neighbors.
Forgive our turning our backs on those in need.
Forgive our apathy when you call us to action.
Forgive our fear.
In your compassion, forgive us.
Remind us that when we answer your call,
we will not be sent out alone,
but filled with your gifts,
surrounded by your children,
and held in your love.
Renew us by your grace
and strengthen us to follow Christ's call,
for we place our hope in your steadfast love,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on Psalm 147)*

One: Our God heals the brokenhearted
and binds up our wounds.
God takes pleasure in those
who place their trust in God's grace.
Hear the good news!
All: **The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 Luke 4:38-44

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Sidetracking Success, Propelling Purpose" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "When We Are Tested" GtG 783

**1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,**

**nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**2. When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

**4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

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

**Jesus lived a truly human life.
Jesus was what we are.
He grew up in a family and a society
troubled by the common problems of the world.
His knowledge was limited
by his time and place in history.
He felt deeply the joy of friendship
and the hurt of being rejected.
Jesus prayed,
struggled with temptation,
knew anger,
and was subject to suffering and death.
He was like us in every way except sin.
Jesus was what we should be.
He served his Father with complete trust
and unwavering obedience.
He loved all kinds of people
and accepted their love.
In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
Jesus allowed no temptation or threat to keep him**

**from loving God with his whole being
and his neighbor as himself.
We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be.
He exposes our failure to live as he lived.
He demonstrates the new humanity
God promises to give us through him.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, in your mercy...
All: ...hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**O God, maker and provider,
you have blessed us with many gifts.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
to spread your gospel near and far,
to feed the world through your love,
to bless your children in every place;
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior. 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, celebrating Christ's presence in your life.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "O Jesus, I Have Promised" GtG 724

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**
- 2. O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.**

3. **O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**
4. **O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.**

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Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur Henry Mann, 1881

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

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

**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.**

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POSTLUDE

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