

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Sing aloud to God our strength!
All: Sing the story of our faith.
One: Sing of God's providential care:
All: water in the desert, honey from a rock.
One: Sing of God's sorrow at our wandering!
All: Sing of God's love that calls us anew.
One: Sing aloud to God our strength!

***OPENING HYMN** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" GtG 610

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace!**
2. **The name of Jesus charms our fears,
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life, and health, and peace.**
3. **Christ speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice;
the poor in heart believe.**

(continued)

4. **My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.**
5. **To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl Gotthelf Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

**we find it hard to see in ourselves the trappings our society so admires
and serves – power, wealth, and access that forget mutual love.**

**We fail to see our allegiance to these dangerous gods – rushing for places of honor,
scorning the humble and lowly, supporting systems that survive
on greed and abuse.**

Forgive us when we are fearful that there is not enough.

Remind us that you are enough.

Teach us your generosity.

Teach us your world-changing humility.

Teach us your expansive love.

Transform us and heal our lives. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 2:4-13 *NRSVUE*

SERMON “Cracked Pot” by Pastor Donna Schiro

***HYMN** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” GtG 69
(Here I Am, Lord)

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. **I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?**

(Refrain)

(continued)

3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981, alt.

Music: HERE I AM (Schutte), Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles Creed”** *(Traditional)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

(continued)

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the live everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN "Here in this Place" GtG 401
(Gather Us In)**

**1. Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

(continued...)

**2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3. Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE