

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to be refreshed and renewed for the journey of life.
All: **We come to embrace the one who embraces us.**
One: Come, people of God, to hear again the call to discipleship.
All: **We come to hear God speak and to relish the presence of the Lord.**
One: Come, people of God, come.
All: **We come in joy to worship the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN “Lift High the Cross” GtG 826**

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1. **Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(Refrain)***
2. **All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. *(Refrain)***
3. **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. *(Refrain)***
4. **So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. *(Refrain)***

Words: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have called us, O God,
and we have refused to listen;
you have stretched out your hand
and we have not taken it.
We are so preoccupied with things of little consequence
that we cannot appreciate important matters of the heart.
We consume other people
instead of loving them.
We bite and devour
while you call us to build relationships and delight in your love.
Set us free, O God, from the sin that binds us.
Forgive our inability to recognize you
and live out the reality of your gospel.
Give us the insight we need
to understand your place in our lives
so that our words and actions reflect
the glory of God in the lives of others.
In the name of the Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast.
All: **The crucified Christ has set us free to live in the Spirit of life.**
One: Receive the good news that you are forgiven,
and live liberated from sin to the glory of God.

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 9:18-23,51-62

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Response: Off Target? On Target?" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Would I Have Answered When You Called?” StF 2137 [Tune GtG 757]

**1. Would I have answered when you called,
“Come, follow, follow me!”?
Would I at once have left behind
both work and family?
Or would the old, familiar round
have held me by its claim
and kept the spark within my heart
from bursting into flame?**

**2. Would I have followed where you led
through ancient Galilee,
on roads unknown, by ways untried,
beyond security?
Or would I soon have hurried back
where home and comfort drew,
where truth you taught would not disturb
the ordered world I knew?**

**3. Would I have matched my step with yours
when crowds cried, “Crucify!”
when on a rocky hill I saw
a cross against the sky?
Or would I too have slipped away
and left you there alone,
a dying king with crown of thorns
upon a terrible throne?**

**4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart
through all its tangled ways,
nor can I with a certain mind
my steadfastness appraise.
I only pray that when you call,
“Come, follow, follow me!”
you’ll give me strength beyond my own
to follow faithfully.**

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

In forming his people and sending them into the world

Jesus called individuals to be disciples.

They were to share the joy of his companionship,

to understand and obey his teachings,

and to follow him in life and death.

He put God's claim on his life above all else.

He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us

personal lives that are centered in God

and open to God's reality and rule.

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us

lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.

Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey

all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.

No more than Christ are we spared

the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.

Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people

do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,

but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.

Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:

to serve as he has served us;

to take up our cross,

risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;

to walk by faith, not by sight,

to hope for what we have not seen.

“A Declaration of Faith” is Copyright 1977, 1991, the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); adopted (1977) “as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration, with the clear understanding that” it is not approved as a part of the *Book of Confessions*.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Hear us, O God...

All: ...your mercy is great.

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.

(continued...)

**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

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Lord, who gives us everything we have,
we return with joy a portion of our bounty,
 giving to the work of your church and your world
 what is already yours: ourselves, our lives, and our means.
Make good come from these gifts.
Teach us to use what we have
 to follow Jesus Christ,
 love our neighbors,
 and share the fruits of the Spirit,
 giving you thanks and praise.
In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Will You Come and Follow Me” GtG 726

**1. “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**

**2. “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”**

(continued...)

3. “Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

4. “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish melody; arr. John L Bell, 1987

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

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