

Sunday Worship- September 27, 2020



A Season of Peace: Peace In Relationships

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa
*"Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service."*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When we seek justice for the other,
when we love kindness more than ever,

P: we live as God asks us to live.

L: When we walk humbly through life,
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

P: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

L: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,
when we choose weakness rather than power,

P: we reflect the One who is in our midst.

HYMN #307 God of Grace and God of Glory

*1: God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

*2: Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.*

*3: Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.*

*4: Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.*

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Holy Spirit, Source of our life,
hear your children's confession and grant us mercy.

**All: God of love and justice,
we long for peace within and peace without.
We long for harmony in our families,
for serenity in the midst of struggle.
We long for the day when our homes
will be a dwelling place for your love.
Yet we confess that we are often anxious,
we do not trust each other,
and we harbor violence.
We are not willing to take the risks
and make the sacrifices that love requires.
Look upon us with kindness and grace.
Rule in our homes and in all the world;
show us how to walk in your paths,
through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.**

~#46 in Confession and Assurance, *Worship Sourcebook 2*

Time of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Know this: there is nothing—no natural disaster, no pandemic, no personal fault, or anything else—that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God is with us, and God is for us.

P: Thanks be to God for this gift of grace! Amen.

RESPONSE #814 In God Alone (sing three times)

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: God has breathed the breath of life within you.

P: Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon us.

L: God has saved us from sin and death through grace.

P: Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon us.

L: God has empowered us to serve others in Christ's name.

P: Blessed be God, and God's blessing be upon us.

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you.

~Vienna Cobb Anderson, from *Words for Worship 1*, Arlene M. Mark

SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)

Reader 1: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSV) – The Greatest Commandment

Reader 2: When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

P: Thanks be to God.

DISCOVERY TIME

*Wherever I may wander, wherever I may be
I'm certain of my Maker's love, God's care is over me.
God made the big high mountains and made the wide blue sea.
God made the sky where airplanes fly, God made the world and me.*

*Throughout the whole creation I see God's loving care
For everyone in every land, God's children everywhere.
Wherever I may wander, wherever I may be
I'm certain of my Maker's love, God's care is over me.*

REFLECTION *Season of Peace: Peace in Relationship*

HYMN #727 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

*1. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.*

*2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.*

*5. When we sing to god in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*

*6. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: God has shown us the meaning of generosity
in the beautiful diversity of creation,
in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,
in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.
God has abundantly blessed us and called us
to be a community that honors each other,
to be servants to others with joy,
to share our love and material possessions.
Let us rejoice in what we have been given
and in what is ours to give.

OFFERTORY DANCE PARTY!!!!

SONG OF RESPONSE #70 What Does the Lord Require of You?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray our thanks together.

**All: God of extravagant mercy,
with hands outstretched you have poured out
wonder and pleasure and delight,
goodness and beauty and bounty.**

**So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all
that is evil and ugly and impoverished,
trivial and wretched and tyrannical,
in our world and in ourselves—**

And thus may we and others know ourselves to be blessed. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#80 You Shall Go Out with Joy

*You Shall Go Out With Joy
And Be Led Forth With Peace
The Mountains And The Hills
Will Break Forth Before You
There'll Be Shouts Of Joy,
And All The Trees Of The Field
Will Clap, Will Clap Their Hands*

*And All The Trees Of The Field
Will Clap Their Hands
The Trees Of The Field
Will Clap Their Hands
The Trees Of The Field
Will Clap Their Hands
While You Go Out With Joy*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE