

Sunday Worship- October 18, 2020



A Season of Peace: Making Peace in the World

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.*

CALL TO CONFESSION AND 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, nor 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

DISCOVERY TIME

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.

Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV) – Marks of the True Christian

L: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

P: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

L: Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

P: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

L: Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

P: Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

L: If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

P: Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

L: No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

P: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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.

REFLECTION Season of Peace: Making Peace in the World

HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth (Jill Jackson and Sy Miller, 1955)

*Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God our creator,
family all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.*

*To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.*

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 #79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

*1: Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.*

*REFRAIN: The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth
with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*2: Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.
REFRAIN*

*3: Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.
REFRAIN*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE