

Sunday Worship- January 10, 2021



God is Holding Your Life: These Lives are Precious

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.

INTRODUCING OUR SERIES AND DAY'S THEME

SERIES SONG "God is Holding Your Life" by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**
[repeat refrain]

OPENING COLLECT PRAYER

L: Holy and Just God,

You have shown us what is right and good.

Open us this day to a vision of the world made all-right

so that we might follow your ways and know the peace of your reign
on earth as it is in heaven.

**P: We praise you for your steadfast presence,
holding our lives together in love.**

Amen.

*HYMN #327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

*From all that dwell below the skies let the
Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through
every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In every land begin the song; to every land the
strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the
world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth
attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Let us make our confession together:

All: Merciful God,

in your gracious presence

we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

**Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

Time of Silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Hear the good news!
Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.
Believe the good news and give thanks:
**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***RESPONSE** #814 In God Alone

*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: The peace of Christ that passes understanding be with you.
P: And also with you.

“SELAH” MOMENT

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.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Lukan Psalter translation

*O God, give your anointed one your judgment—
and your justice.
Teach your chosen one to govern your people rightly
and bring justice to the oppressed.*

*The mountains will bring the people peace
and the little hills bring justice!
Your anointed will defend the oppressed
among the people,
save the children of the poor,
and crush the oppressor.
The reign of your anointed will endure
as long as the sun and moon—
throughout all generations.*

*The rule of the chosen one will be
like rain coming down on the meadow,
like showers watering the earth.
Justice will flower through the days,
and abundance of peace 'til the moon
shall be no more.*

*Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts;
Arabia and Sheba will bring tribute.
All rulers will pay homage,
and all the nations will serve your anointed.*

*Your anointed will rescue the poor
when they cry out,
and the oppressed when there is no
one to help them.*

*Your chosen one will take pity on the lowly
and the poor,
and will save their lives.*

*Your chosen one
will rescue them all from violence
and oppression,
and will treat their blood as precious.*

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 ON THE WORD These Lives Are Precious

HYMN #822 When We Are Living

*When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,
for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One,
for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,
hear our 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: The psalmist reminds us, "The earth is Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."
(Psalm 24:1)

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray our thanks together:

**All: Lord, you give us everything that is good—
our homes, our food, our families, and even our lives.
All that we own and all that we are belong to you.
Since you give us so much,
we thank you by sharing our time, talents,
and right now our money with others in need.
Use these gifts to show your love to people
throughout our world in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

*HYMN #849 Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God

*Everyone who longs for the boundless love of God,
Everyone who hopes for the coming of God's peace,
The Lord God who created all things beautiful and good
Loves you more than you can ever fully know.*

*Everyone worships God and sings glad songs of praise,
Everyone who follows God's good and holy way,
The Lord God who created all things beautiful and good
Loves you now as one of God's own.*

*God is always watching over you, God is watching you with loving eyes.
God is hearing you in all your prayers; God is listening with tender, loving ears.
God shines light in every dark and fearful place we go
And will answer every little cry that you make, So wherever you may go follow in God's holy way
And trust God to take you home*

*JANUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE