

Sunday Worship- April 25, 2021



Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Friends, we gather this day from many places,
from many situations and circumstances.

But this we know is true:

**P: The flame of the Spirit touches our souls,
the light of Christ's truth fills our minds,
and the love of the Maker fills our hearts**

All: Trusting this, let us worship God together.

~Iona Big Book of Liturgies, altered

HYMN #14 For the Beauty of the Earth

1: For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

REFRAIN:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2: For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain]

3: For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]

4: For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

5: For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Life giving God, hear our prayer of confession.

Let us pray. . .

**All: Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that the fruit of the Spirit shows forth
in our daily living, loving and serving.**

Time of Silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Amen.

Hear the good news!

Friends in Christ: by the power of the Spirit,
we are united with Christ and given a new spirit.

Live in the joy and peace of that assurance.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE** #288 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: Now may the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you overflow with love and hope.

The peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

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.

Galatians 5:13-25 (Common English Bible)

Reader 1: You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

Reader 2: I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

Reader 1: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

Reader 2: If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit.

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 *Fruit of the Spirit: Love*

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 may have the grace
To let you be my servant too

2: We are pilgrims on a journey
We're together 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 may have the grace
To let you be my servant too

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 serve 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.
Let us pray our thanks together:

**All: Giver of every good and perfect gift,
we marvel at your love and care
for us and for all that you have made.
Help us by your Holy Spirit
to lift our hearts to you,
to taste and see that you are good,
and to live lives of abundant generosity,
full of gratitude and grace,
through Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.**

OFFERTORY

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your good works.

You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.

You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained ever faithful.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.
He lived among us and told your story.
He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.
He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ
and that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another
until we feast with him and with all your saints
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: God of Abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

**P: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN #549 May the Love of the Lord

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE