

## Sunday Worship- May 2, 2021



Fruit of the Spirit: JOY

**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 (selected verses Psalms 16, 30, 65)

L: Holy God, You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

**P: in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing;

**P: you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy...**

L: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**P: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.**

L: Let us worship God together.

### SONG #664 Morning Has Broken (sung by cantor only)

*1: Morning has broken  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the Word!*

*2: Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where God's feet pass.*

*3: Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day!*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Let us pray. . .

**All: Dear God, Creator of the heavens and Maker of each small thing:**

**What a wondrous universe you have spread before us.**

**Each day overflows with the richness of life—**

**with growing green and bursting blossoms,**

**with relationships which nurture and challenge,**

**with missions accomplished and justice to be done.**

**Each day is full of your meaning.**

**And yet many times we do not see this.**

**With much around us to be done, we complain of boredom.**

**Or we are so busy we lose track of your presence and calling.**

**Too often we scurry to and fro**

**without appreciation, delight, or much sense of purpose.**

**Call us, O God, out of emotional poverty**

**into the richness of life lived in love.**

**Move us toward you and one another.**

**Awaken us to joy.**

*Time of Silence*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Do not be afraid! In Christ, God comes near to us,  
bringing hope, joy and forgiveness into our lives.

**All: God gathers up the fragments of our lives  
and shapes us into new people.**

**For this reason, we lift our thanks to God. Amen.**

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

*Please share a no touch sign of peace with others*

## 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.

**Congregation: 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: Joy*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & 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: Jesus is our peace.

Jesus' way guides who we are, what we do,  
and the way we give of ourselves.

May our tithes and offerings be given in joyful response to God's love.

Amen.

*~Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brenneman, #142*

OFFERTORY/ANTHEM #611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (sung by cantor only)

*1: Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.*

*2: All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee!*

*3: Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray our thanks together:

**All: God of Abundance,**

**all the things we have were yours before they were ours—**

**your gifts to bring us joy and to meet our need.**

**Let them now become our gifts to others**

**to bring them joy and to meet their need.**

**May we live so that others may have what we have for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

HYMN #80 You Shall Go Out with Joy (sung by cantor only)

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the fields  
Will clap, will clap their hands.*

*And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy.*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Prayer List:** Larry Petrick and family after the death of his mother, Joanne Dinken, on April 26 in Colorado; Steve Valenta, Carol Daly's brother-in-law, multiple complications following open-heart surgery in late March; Judy Vopava, recovering from sinus surgery; Jennifer Fenchel Lengwin and parents, John and Ruth; Carole Frazee; Jim Winn; Dixie Mackie; Ann Cannon's mother and step-father in Germany, Barbara and Rudolf; Kristin Meyer's father, Mike Peterson.

*If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Lori (lewunder@gmail.com)*