

Sunday Worship – July 25, 2021



*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
Psalm 1:3*

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

P: we praise you!

L: You fashioned the earth and all that lives there,

P: we praise you!

L: You give breath to the people upon it, and Spirit to those who walk on it.

P: We praise and thank you, O God!

L: That the eyes of the blind be opened, the broken-hearted be healed, the poor hear the good news, the captives be brought out of darkness,

P: your kingdom come, O Lord. Your will be done.

L: So shall we sing a song, O Lord,

All: and praise your name for ever.

*HYMN #39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my
Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,
they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be*

*REFRAIN
Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy
faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses*

*above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and
love*

REFRAIN

*Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside*

REFRAIN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Knowing how hard it is to be honest about those parts of our lives that cause us the greatest pain, the greatest heartache, and the greatest shame, we trust that God welcomes us with open arms, unconditionally, and seeks to mend our hearts. Together let us pray and confess:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord, we call ourselves an Easter people; we proclaim the promise of forgiveness and new life. But we fail to love as you taught us to love. We refuse to make up with those whom we have turned our backs on. We put pride before mercy. We pretend like all is well. And we are so very hard on ourselves. We think of ourselves—and others—as beyond redemption.

Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for the ways we shut you out. Forgive us for thinking we can do it all by ourselves. And forgive us for refusing to accept the gift of your grace.

Hear now our silent prayer of confession:

Time of silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Friends, nothing, nothing, nothing can separate us from the unconditional love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that God loves you. God forgives you. And be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God. Amen!

*RESPONSE #581 Glory Be to the Father

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: Christ is with us!

P: Christ is with us indeed!

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

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 1:1-3 (NRSV)

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Ephesians 3:14-22 (NRSV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

SERMON Being Deeply Rooted

HYMN #683 Lord of All Hopefulness

*1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all
joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares
can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we
pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the
break of the day.*

*2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all
faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we
pray,*

*Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.*

*3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all
grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms
to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we
pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve
of the day.*

*4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all
calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose*

*presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray,*

*Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the
end of the day.*

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: The willingness to give is a sign of life.
The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive.
When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it.
The heart that hoards the blessings of God
is no longer alive with spiritual power.
To give is to live.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS OFFERTORY

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #70 What Does the Lord Require of You?**

*What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?*

Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer ourselves with our gifts,
Giver and Sustainer of Life,
confident that you have a purpose for them and for us.
Expand our limited vision to embrace new possibilities.
We rededicate ourselves to you with our giving.
May our offerings reach beyond the barriers
of our former thinking and doing.
In the Spirit of Christ, we would pray and live. Amen.**

***HYMN #188 Jesus Loves Me!**

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.*

REFRAIN

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
REFRAIN*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Thanks to Elise Rodenberg for playing for us this morning, and to Angie Paulson for serving as liturgist.

Prayer Chain Requests:

*Dick Hogan, in ICU after surgery to remove infection in his new knee (replaced June 17).

*Anita Pitcher having heart issues, awaiting hip replacement, pain in back, and colon problems.

*Dixie Mackie has polyps on vocal cords caused by intense coughing

*Marty Kloubec, Fran Bray's nephew in FL, needs surgery to replace his aortic valve; awaiting the correct sized valve.

* Carol & Denver Dillard's granddaughter in Nashville, Fei Er, awaiting major heart surgery to reroute her heart on August 4.

*Lois Heerenga, daughter of Bob and Jeanette Madson, July 1 scan revealed tumors neither grew nor shrunk. Lois will remain in the study, taking pills for another three months with another scan at the end of September.

*Ann Cannon, recently diagnosed with Stage 0, non-invasive breast cancer, began radiation last week.

*Marty Gordon, Don Burch's son-in-law, in process of treatment for cancer in his neck.

*Jennifer Lengwin's parents, John & Ruth Fenchel, in Seattle; mom has Alzheimer's and dad is caregiving

*Angie and Bernie Paulson's daughter, Rozie, exploring STEM cell treatment at UIHC

*Carole Frazee, ongoing recovery from back surgery and pain management

*Jim Winn, immunotherapy

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Lori (lori.wunder@firstpresmv.com)