

Sunday Worship- September 26, 2021



Some People Following Jesus by Gary Bunt

Follow Jesus: Learn to See Through the Lens of Love

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: Jesus says to us, "Come and see!"

P: What is there to see?

L: Jesus has so much to show us about God's love.

P: Where are we going?

L: Jesus is leading us to God.

P: (turn to one another) I'm going! You come too!

— *Follow Jesus* Young Children and Multiage Children Leader's Guides

Response

*CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace,
and Giver of Life: hear our prayer.

*LITANY OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

L: O Holy One, hear our prayers... (time of silence)

O Holy One, it's not that we are loathsome as much as we are broken—

P: Mend the broken places, and make them stronger.

L: O Holy One, we miss the people that used to be a part of our lives—

P: Help us to put aside the past hurts, to reach out, to reconnect, to reconcile.

L: O Holy One, we are lost and cannot find our way home—

P: Come and find us; rescue us from the frightening places.

L: O Holy One, there is just too much, and we are so anxious about it all—

P: Infuse peace and serenity in our hearts.

L: O Holy One, we are so proud of our accomplishments that we are blind to the victories of others, and blithely ignore you as the source of all gifts—

P: Open our eyes to the wonders of all our siblings, and remind us that you empower each one of us.

L: O Holy One, we are locked up in cells of our own making, and in the prisons our culture creates—

P: Free us, liberate us, release us from the bondage that limits our full expression of love and faith.

L: O Holy One, our fears only make us think about what we miss and do not point us to you—

P: Lavish us with grace so that we may accept all your bounty.

L: O Holy One, there is so much that is not right—

P: Remind us that you have claimed the world, and us, as your own, good and beloved and redeemed. Amen.

— Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com

Time of silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: The good news in Christ
is that when we face ourselves and God
with the awareness of our need,
we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***RESPONSE** #729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (verse 4)

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Mark 12:28-34 (Common English Bible)

Reader 1: One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Reader 2: Jesus replied, “The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these.”

Reader 1: The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

Reader 2: When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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 *Follow Jesus: Learning to See Through the Lens of Love*

HYMN #205 Ubi Caritas

*Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.*

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 ways we give of ourselves.

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

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

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

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

*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 #300 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love**

*1: We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored*

*Chorus:
And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love*

*2: We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land (Chorus)*

*3: We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard human dignity
And save human pride (Chorus)*

*4: All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to
Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to
The Spirit who makes us one (Chorus)*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prayer Requests:

- *Roger Johanson diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer; awaiting surgery October 18.
- *Angie and Bernie Paulson's daughter, Rozie, began STEM cell treatment at UIHC on Friday, September 17. She will be in the hospital in isolation for four weeks.
- *Ann Cannon, in Germany to help transition her mother, Barbara, and stepfather, Rudolf, to assisted living. Both have deteriorating health.
- *Dixie Mackie continued health problems, including progression of COPD and emphysema; more treatments and prescriptions added.
- *Carol & Denver Dillard's granddaughter in Nashville, Fei Er (Shuai), at home recovering from major heart surgery on August 24.
- *Marty Gordon, Don Burch's son-in-law, recovering from August 31 surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes in his neck and a carotid body tumor on his right side (unrelated to the cancer). He'll receive six weeks of radiation, and chemo only if necessary.
- *Jim Winn, at the VA hospital, waiting to be moved to assisted living or skilled nursing.
- *Dick Hogan is steadily improving after knee replacement and subsequent infection.
- *Penny Gerber's brother, Kenn, whose cancer has come back a third time, receiving immunotherapy.
- *Anita Pitcher is weak, in a great deal of pain and has multiple health problems.
- *Jennifer Lengwin's parents, John & Ruth Fenchel, in Seattle; mom has Alzheimer's and dad is caregiving
- *Carole Frazee, ongoing recovery from back surgery and pain management