

Sunday Worship- October 10, 2021



**Welcome Others: See Christ in Every Person: Friend,
Stranger, Enemy**

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: Blessed are those who serve the poor,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who share the wealth,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who work for good,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who open doors,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who break down walls,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who challenge hate,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who live their faith,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who speak the truth,

P: they will be called the children of God.

L: Blessed are those who show Christ's love,

P: they will be called the children of God.

~ "Worship in a Matthew 25 Church: Resources for Congregations and Presbyteries" Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Office of Theology and Worship

*UNSUNG OPENING

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: In humility and faith, let us make our confession
before God and one another.

ALL: Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations:

**We confess that we have not seen your face
among our neighbors in need.**

**We have not shared our food with the hungry;
we have not offered clothes to the destitute
or shelter to the homeless.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger,
nor have we visited prisoners.**

**We have not paid attention to these, your sisters and brothers,
and, in our neglect, we have failed to serve you.**

**Lord, forgive us;
open our eyes to recognize your beloved family,
and give us the blessing of sincere repentance
that we may know the joy of eternal life with you and all the saints in this world
and in the world to come. Amen.**

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 #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: 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.

Matthew 25:31-46 (The Message)

Reader 1: “When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

Reader 2: “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

Congregation: “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’

Reader 1: Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

Reader 2: “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

Congregation: “Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

Reader 1: “He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

“Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

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 *See Christ in Every Person: Friend, Stranger, Enemy*

HYMN #762 When the Poor Ones

*1: When the poor ones, who have nothing,
still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and
healing:*

*Refrain: We see God, here by our side,
walking our way;
we see God, here by our side,
walking our way.*

*2: When compassion gives the suffering
consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was
lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around
us:
Refrain*

*3: When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with
gladness;
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the
truth;
when our longings, free from envy, seek the
humble:
Refrain*

*4: When the goodness poured from heaven fills
our dwellings;
when the nations work to change war into
peace;
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
Refrain*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: Remembering God's abundant welcome for us in creation,
we respond by giving of ourselves with joy.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

#70 What Does the Lord Require of You?

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray:

**ALL: Gracious God,
we thank you for gifts that belong not to us alone,
but to all our-siblings,
since we are all created in your image.
Let their need become our need;
let their hunger become our hunger;
and grant to us also a portion of their pain,
so that in sharing ourselves,
we discover the Christ who walks with all humanity.
Amen.**

~Worship Sourcebook 2nd edition, p. 246

*HYMN #543 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

*1: God be the love to search and keep me
God be the prayer to move my voice
God be the strength to now uphold me
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me*

*4: Walking behind to hem my journey
Going ahead to light my way
And from beneath, above, and all ways
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me*

*2: Bind to myself the name of Holy
Great cloud of witnesses enfold
Prophets, apostles, angels witness
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me*

*5: Christ in the eyes of all who see me
Christ in the ears who hear my voice
Christ in the hearts of all who know me
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me*

*3: Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind
Depth of the sea to soil of planet
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me*

*OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prayer Requests:

*Alyson West, Greg's daughter, hospitalized in Ft. Lauderdale after a fall. Recovering from two surgeries to put in plates to support a c6 fracture in her neck.

*Brian, Rozanne Petrick's brother, recovering from a fall that left three fractures in his L3.

*Roger Johanson diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer; awaiting surgery October 18.

*Ann Cannon's mother, Barbara, and stepfather, Rudolf, in Germany. Both have deteriorating health.

*Ongoing requests: Dixie Mackie; Fei Er (Shuai) Miller, Carol and Denver Dillard's granddaughter; Marty Gordon, Don Burch's son-in-law; Jim Winn; Dick Hogan; Penny Gerber's brother, Kenn; John & Ruth Fenchel, Jennifer Lengwin's parents; Carole Frazee; Rozie, Angie and Bernie Paulson's daughter.