

## Sunday Worship- October 17, 2021



**Welcome Others:  
Know Your Gifts and Encourage Others' Gifts**

**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: Beloved, let us love one another.

**P: We love because God first loved us.**

**All: Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN #366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*1: Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*2: Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.*

*3: Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.*

*4: Finish, then, thy new creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**ALL: Sometimes, O God, we behave like Martha.**

**We get distracted in our routines, so busy with our daily chores that we forget to take the time to stop and breathe, to look up and notice the creation you have given and the way it speaks of your love and passion for your people.**

**We do not take time to listen for your words while reading the Bible, listening to music, or talking to friends, and we become worried and upset about many things.**

**Sometimes, O God, we behave like Mary.**

**We devote our time to looking up, thinking that all we are commanded to do is to adore God, so that we forget to serve our neighbor, and to commit our time to the concrete work of the church, forgetting to get our hands dirty.**

**God of balance, help us:**

**forgive us when we do not know when to be workers and when to be hearers.  
In your mercy, heal our worries and our judgments, so that we can, indeed,  
keep the best part. In the name of our loving Savior. 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.

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Common English Bible)

*Reader 1:* The Lord's word came to Elijah: Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you. Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, "Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink." She went to get some water. He then said to her, "Please get me a piece of bread."

*Reader 2:* "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I'm collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We'll eat the last of the food and then die."

*Reader 1:* Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that. This is what Israel's God, the Lord, says: The jar of flour won't decrease and the bottle of oil won't run out until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

*Reader 2:* The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow's household ate for many days. The jar of flour didn't decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the Lord spoke through Elijah.

Luke 10:38-42 (Common English Bible)

*Reader 1:* While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."

*Reader 2:* The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."

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 *Know Your Gifts and Encourage Others' Gifts*

HYMN #716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*1: God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.*

*2: Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.*

*3: Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace  
conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the Gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND 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: Bring your gifts and your talents, bring your sacrifice of praise to the Lord. Bring them with prayers and shouts of thanksgiving, to celebrate God's faithfulness!

## 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 the gifts you have given us, in skill and talent, in opportunities to serve, in finances.**

**Whether we are giving or receiving,  
we are blessed to be part of the economy of your kin-dom,  
where there is enough for everyone.**

**May our gifts be used to the glory of God. Amen.**

~Worship Sourcebook 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, p. 246

\*HYMN #203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

*Refrain:*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we  
have from you.*

*1: Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.*

*Refrain*

*2: Neighbors are wealthy and poor,  
varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near us and far away.*

*Refrain*

*3: These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all these are neighbors to us and you.*

*Refrain*

*4: Loving puts us on our knees,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.*

*Refrain*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

### *Prayer Requests:*

\*Angie & Bernie Paulson's daughter, Rozie, started stem cell treatment last Sunday, October 10.

\*Alyson West, making slow, steady progress. Will do ongoing therapy at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago.

\*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

### CALENDAR

Today! October 17 - Blessing of the Animals Service 3:30pm, Memorial Park Gazebo

Wednesday, October 20 - Wednesday Early Out (WEO) 1:15pm, Abbe Hills Farm

Sunday, October 24 - Christian Education Committee Meeting 10:45am,  
Community Room

Wednesday, October 27 - The Blind Spot 7:00pm, via Zoom

Thursday, October 28 - Called (Special) Session Meeting 6:30pm, Community Room

Sunday, October 31 - All Saint' Day Observance 9:30am worship

Halloween Fun (Organ Concert, Candy Chute) 5:30pm,  
sanctuary and front steps