

Sunday, November 21, 2021



Together for Joy

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 (based on Psalm 98)

L: From the small to the great,
and from the great to the small,
sing to God,
for God has done marvelous things.

Pulpit Side: Let the electrons circle their nuclei,

Piano Side: Let the earth spin on its axis,

Pulpit Side: Let the moons orbit the planets,

Piano Side: Let the planets orbit the Sun,

Pulpit Side: Let the Sun spiral in its galaxy,

Piano Side: Let the galaxies revolve around their Creator,

All: Together for joy!

L: From the small to the great,
and from the great to the small,
sing to God,
for God has done marvelous things.

*HYMN #276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord

Refrain:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.*

*1: Shout for gladness! dance for joy.
O come before the Lord.
And play for God on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. (Refrain)*

*2: Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song. (Refrain)*

*3: Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.
I know my Savior lives. (Refrain)*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

O God of life,
eternity cannot hold you,
nor can our little words catch
the magnificence of your kindness.
Yet in the space of hearts and in silence
you can come close and repair us.
O God of life, grant us your forgiveness

**ALL: for our careless thoughts,
our thoughtless deeds,
our empty speech,
and the words with which we have wounded.**

Time of silence

L: O God of life, grant us your forgiveness

**ALL: for our false desires,
our hateful actions,
our wastefulness
and all we have left untended.**

Time of silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: The God who challenges us
is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us
is also the God who accepts us.

Be assured that God is with us even now,
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

All: 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

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

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 98 (New Revised Standard Version)

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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.

HOMILY *Together for Joy*

HYMN #711 Lord of All Good

<i>1: Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to thee: Use them your holy purpose to fulfill; Tokens of love and pledges brought anew, That our whole life is offered to your will.</i>	<i>Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live, Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows, To you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.</i>
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*2: We give our minds to understand your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve thy great
design;*

*Heart with the flame of your own love ablaze,
Till for your glory all our powers combine.*

3: Father, whose bounty all creation shows,

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION The Annual Appeal

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Unclouded Day*

Daniel and Marie Riechers, Julia Andrews

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

#70 What Does the Lord Require of You?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray as I lead us:

God of marvelous things,

Let the clink of the coins in these plates be as the clapping of the floods for you, O God.

Let the clicks of the online pledges resound as the waves of the sea and everything in it.

Let the quiet rustle of bills and checks and pledge cards be as soft as the wind drifting

over the mountains who are singing together for joy.

Let the fervent prayers, the lofty hopes, the quiet determination of these people and these gifts be our song, our hymn of praise to you, you who are doing such marvelous things!

And may the power of your Holy Spirit turn all of our offerings and efforts into a great symphony of praise until you come again. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #643 Now Thank We All Our God

*1: Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

*2: O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.*

*3: All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be
given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liturgist: Jonathan Walsh

Prayer Requests:

*Tex Clay, hospitalized for pancreatitis

*Dixie Mackie, in much pain after another kidney stone and UTI

*Paul Jerabek moved to Grand Living memory care unit on November 1. Adjusting well.

*Fran Bray, recovering from knee replacement surgery November 4th. PT has begun!

*Ann Cannon and her mother, Barbara, after the death of Rudolf. Ann will be with her mother in Germany through the end of November, preparing her to move back to the U.S.
*Roger Johanson, recovering from prostate surgery October 18th.
*Alyson West, finished intensive inpatient physical therapy and rehab at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago on November 19. Outpatient rehab at Vanderbilt in Nashville (where she lives) begins November 30.
*Nick Lengwin, continued healing of his lung.
*Brian, Rozanne Petrick's brother, has an infection in his back.
*Rozie, Angie and Bernie Paulson's daughter, is at home following the completed stem cell therapy. Recovery is ongoing.
*Ongoing prayers: Dick Hogan; Kenn, Penny Gerber's brother; John & Ruth Fenchel, Jennifer Lengwin's parents.

Upcoming Events/Announcements

***A Benefit Concert for SELCC**

Tuesday, November 23 at 7:00pm

First Street Community Center

Our very own Marie Riechers & Julia Andrews, also known as Music Works Iowa, will be presenting a concert on Tuesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Street Community Center in Mount Vernon. A free will donation will be collected to support the important work of SELCC.

***Advent and Christmas Happenings!**

WORSHIP Onsite, Online (Facebook) and on YouTube (FirstPresMV) unless otherwise noted

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent – HOPE

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 5:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols

*December 26 – First Sunday After Christmas – Recorded Service *No In Person**

The Chancel Choir began singing in worship on November 7 and it is wonderful to have them back! While they will sing each Sunday in December, they are not yet ready to perform a full program this year.

Likewise, our gatherings with children have been outside which does not allow for pageant rehearsals. Instead, the children will help create a recorded service that will be available to watch anytime on Sunday, December 26.

We have two devotionals available: “Less Is More” which follows the lectionary readings for Year C (which are, admittedly, a bit difficult). This also has a fun, non-traditional Advent Calendar poster with suggested activities and conversations. The other is “The Poetry of Advent” which uses the poetry of Mary Oliver as its guide. All of these materials are available at the church, OR you can email Marie (office@firstpresmv.com) to have them mailed to you!