

## **Sunday Worship- May 15, 2022**



Photo by Erik Brolin on Unsplash

### **Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God Fifth Sunday of Easter: An Unexpected Change of Menu**

**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa**

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –  
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

Welcome to Worship  
\*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: O God, we joyously come together to worship,  
Realizing we need not summon you into our midst,  
For you are here.

**P: We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts,  
For you are there.**

L: We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you;

**P: our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you;**

L: our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you;

**P: our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.**

L: Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need,

**All: as we worship you together!**

*~Words for Worship edited by Arlene Mark, #117*

**\*HYMN** #14 For the Beauty of the Earth

*1: For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.*

*Refrain:  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2: For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]*

*3: For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight.*

*4: For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]*

*5: For thyself best gift divine  
to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]*

## \*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Let us confess the ways we have all fallen short of God's intentions for us. Let us pray together,

**All: Gracious Source of Life, in this season of growth and renewal, we sometimes remain stuck in dormancy, refusing to see or accept the new growth within and around us. We confess that we turn our eyes away from the beauty of this world and do not always acknowledge the love and mercy offered to us each day. We cling to bad news, are afraid to risk, to reach out or to turn the corner, for then we may no longer pity ourselves. We are too busy with our own tasks to see if they fit into Your desires for us and the world.**

**Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we are held captive by complacency, inertia, and fear. Help us to see and accept your gift of resurrection. Amen.**

### *Time of Silent Reflection*

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: As Christ broke into the disciples' locked room, offering forgiveness and the breath of new life, so Christ can enter our closed hearts and minds and give us new life. Know that you are forgiven. Feel the breath of resurrection creating you anew.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*~from Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship, p. 88*

## \*RESPONSE #596 You Are Holy

*You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always evermore than we ever understand.  
You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near.  
Blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.  
You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present.  
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Sing hosanna in the highest!  
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: In the joyful presence of our risen Lord, let us give one another a sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## DISCOVERY TIME

## ANTHEM

## 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.

Acts 11:1-18 (NRSV) - Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

*Reader 1:* Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

*Reader 2:* At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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.**

REFLECTION     An Unexpected Change of Menu

HYMN     #769 For Everyone Born

*1: For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,*

*REFRAIN*

*and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

*2: For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair,*

*REFRAIN*

*3: For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,  
REFRAIN*

*4: For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser; abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live,  
REFRAIN*

*5: For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free,  
REFRAIN*

## 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: As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry.

## GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #70 What Does the Lord Require

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent, service, and money. May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.**

\*HYMN #291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

#### *REFRAIN*

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness,  
wind, wind on the sea.*

*1: You moved on the waters,  
you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains  
from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
"Awake from your slumbers  
and rise on your wings."*

*2: You swept through the desert,  
you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
when they were confounded  
with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets  
to open their eyes.*

*3: You sang in a stable,  
you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence  
when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city  
you called once again,  
when you blew through your people  
on the rush of the wind.*

*4: You call from tomorrow,  
you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow  
the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions,  
our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions  
your people arise.*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

Thanks to our liturgist, Larry Petrick, and to Carl Riechers for running the AV today!