

Sunday Worship - August 28, 2022



<https://www.ststephensarmonk.org/dinner-with-jesus>

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

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

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Luke 14:11)

L: All who exalt themselves will be humbled

P: And those who humble themselves will be exalted

L: God invites us all to the kin-dom's banquet

P: Honored by God's welcome, we gather by grace

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***HYMN** #401 Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

*1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your
daughters,*

*call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together;
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

***CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: The path of faithfulness is the path of humility. Let us bow before the God who created us and confess that which betrays us and our faith.

All: Savior God,

**forgive us when we jockey for the highest position
and the most honorable seat at your table.**

All are welcome, but we want to know who was invited first.

We categorize and rank according to the world's standards, not yours.

Forgive our hierarchical ways.

Forgive our lust for prestige and power.

Return us to Christ, our model of humility and our guide in faith. Amen.

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: "Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."

Thanks be to God; we are forgiven and freed. Amen.

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*RESPONSE #750 Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

*Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours
through God who loves us. (repeat)*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME - Noisy Offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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.

Proverbs 25:6-7 (NRSV)

Reader 1: Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Luke 14:1, 7-14 (NRSV) - Humility and Hospitality

Reader 1: On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Reader 2: When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Reader 1: He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #346 For the Healing of the Nations

*1: For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.*

*2: Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.*

*3: All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.*

*4: You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.*

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: We belong to God. Everything we have, even life itself, is a gift from God.

In gratitude to God, let us return a portion of these gifts as our tithe and offering.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take our hearts, our hands, our gifts, Holy God.

Mold us; shape us; send us; so that we might be your body in the world you so love. Amen.

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***HYMN #308 O God in Whom All Life Begins**

*1: O God in whom all life begins,
who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives;
here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts
of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear,
and grant our faith increase.*

*2: Unite in mutual ministry
our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek
the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine
to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.*

*3: Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in pow'r and faith
to live the words we say*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**