

Sunday Worship - October 2, 2022



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Week 4
God's Promises Bring Hope - God Delivers the Israelites

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.

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Where there are winners, there are losers.

Whilst one cheers, another weeps.

P: There are two sides to every story.

L: The only place to be is on God's side.

When uncertainty reigns, and fears abound and the future is unclear,

P: The only place to be is on God's side.

L: As we come to God in worship, we do so in this knowledge:

ALL: God is always by our side. ~adapted from Spill the Beans, Issue 13

***HYMN** #39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*1: Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.*

Chorus:

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*2: Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
(Chorus)*

*3: Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Chorus)*

***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: Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good,
but we look at your world and see division and suffering.**

**You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace,
but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility,
conflict over peace born from justice.**

**You call us to love the least of these among us,
but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort.
We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrificing for our neighbors.**

Forgive us, God of Mercy.

Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ.

**Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline —
that with faith in Christ, we might be made new
and be part of bringing forth the world as you want it to be.**

Time of silent prayer

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Amen.

We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning.

Friends, believe this good news!

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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

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.

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 (NRSV) - The Crossing of the Red Sea

Reader 1: When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

Reader 2: As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses,

Congregation: “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

Reader 2: But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

Reader 1: Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch, the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Reader 2: Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

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 #637 O Sing to the Lord

*1: O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
O sing to our God, o sing to our God.*

*2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
Oh sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.*

*3: So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets,
and sing to our God, and sing to our God.*

*4: O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit,
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit,
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit,
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.*

*5: For Jesus is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
Oh, sing to our God, Oh sing to our God.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

ALL: Giver of every good gift, your generosity to us is without limit. We thank you that you have blessed us, and we acknowledge that you intend for us to share our blessings with others and with our world.

Take what we offer this each day, make more of it, do more with it, than we can ask or imagine.

Expand our hearts to offer ourselves as generously as you do. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all.

Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners,
with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends,
with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones.

And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all, too.

As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world
through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed.

So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation,

for the blessing of your earth and all your children,

for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty,

for joy that comes in the morning.

We are a grateful people.

You created a world of harmony and peace,

but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history

led to division and conflict, suffering and violence.

We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets

to lament and remind to bear witness and call us to yet a better way.

to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see.

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices

with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks that in the fullness of time,
you sent your Son Jesus to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love.
In his living, he showed us how to love.
In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy.
In his rising, he granted us grace.
Through the gift of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed,
his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God,
not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves
but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith
gathered around one table, sharing in one holy meal,
sustained by a love that binds us together in peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables
trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together.
May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine
be a reminder of the true joy of communion
that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love.
Sustained by your Word, fed by this holy meal,
may we go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
through Christ our peace. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

Eternal God,

**We give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***HYMN #538 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises!**

[Refrain:]

*Halleluya! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Halleluya! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

*2: Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt;
strong in faith, free of doubt,
tell to all the joyful Gospel. [Refrain]*

*1: Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread;
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger. [Refrain]*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Worshiping with the Narrative Lectionary

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May (Pentecost Sunday) the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture, from Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, to Jesus and Paul, listening to the many different voices within scripture can enrich the life of faith.

Additionally, our children's curriculum will follow these same stories!

Narrative Lectionary Year 1 - Guided by God's Promises

God makes promises to God's people and to all creation and is faithful in keeping those promises. In the first story in this year's lectionary, God promises not to destroy the earth by flood ever again. Continuing with the covenant with the Israelites, the promise of Jesus, and Paul's words that nothing can separate us from God, the narrative of scripture follows God's promises and God's faithfulness to them. God keeps promises, even though we often struggle to respond faithfully. It is these promises that should guide our own lives and decisions as we trust fully in God. Faith in the promises of God gives us the courage to work and speak for justice, to live in hope no matter the circumstances, and to share the good news of Jesus with all people.

First Series, September 11 through October 9, 2022

God's Promises Bring Hope

9/11/22	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6012; 9:8-17	Noah and the Ark
9/18/22	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abraham
9/25/22	Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph's Hope
10/2/22	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29	Parting of the Red Sea
10/9/22	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments

God's promises being hope for the future. After the flood, God promises God's loving relationship with all people. God promises Abram a future of descendants through which all the world will be blessed. God's presence brings Joseph hope even as he faces trials. Rescuing the Israelites, God promises to be their God, a Central theme in the Hebrew Scriptures. The gift of this covenant and the Ten Commandments provides the Israelites with guidelines on how to love God and love others in ways that bring life and hope to all.