

## **Sunday Worship - September 11, 2022**



**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**

L: As the summer draws to a close, as a new year begins,

**P: we gather together to be reminded of the Promise.**

L: As those who have seen some of the storms of life,

**P: we gather to look for the rainbow, sign of the Promise.**

L: As God called Noah so long ago, so God calls us in the present,

**P: to gather as members of community, to celebrate God's Promise, to live as people of the covenant.**

**\*HYMN** #22 God of the Sparrow

*1. God of the sparrow*

*God of the whale*

*God of the swirling stars*

*How does the creature say Awe*

*How does the creature say Praise*

*2. God of the earthquake*

*God of the storm*

*God of the trumpet blast*

*How does the creature cry Woe*

*How does the creature cry Save*

*3. God of the rainbow*

*God of the cross*

*God of the empty grave*

*How does the creature say Grace*

*How does the creature say Thanks*

*4. God of the hungry*

*God of the sick*

*God of the prodigal*

*How does the creature say Care*

*How does the creature say Life*

*5. God of the neighbor*

*God of the foe*

*God of the pruning hook*

*How does the creature say Love*

*How does the creature say Peace*

*6. God of the ages*

*God near at hand*

*God of the loving heart*

*How do your children say Joy*

*How do your children say Home*

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

L: Creation was not what you hoped it would be God.

**P: And you decided to start over.**

L: But there was still something worth saving,

**P: so you called out Noah to build an ark, a refuge for creation.**

L: Then, after the waters washed away you made a promise,

**P: setting your bow in the clouds, a sign that never again would the world be washed away, a sign of your love and grace.**

L: Creation is not what you hope it would be God,

**P: we continue to miss the mark, we continue to be less than we could be.**

L: But still you see the possibility, still in grace you challenge us to live out the old covenants,

**P: pulling us forward, reminding us who we are.**

L: And still the bow is in the clouds, light bending through a prism, spreading into a display of color.

**P: Giving us hope, giving us beauty, promising us grace.**

## *Time of silent prayer*

### \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: We have gathered as God's people:  
broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family;  
forgiven, we are sent to serve.

**P: Washed, forgiven, restored, loved. This font is our constant reminder of God's claim on our lives, of God's grace which makes us new in every moment. 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.

Genesis 6:5-22, 8:6-12, 9:8-17 (Common English Bible) - Flood and Promise

*Narrator:* The Lord saw that humanity had become thoroughly evil on the earth and that every idea their minds thought up was always completely evil. The Lord regretted making human beings on the earth, and he was heartbroken. So the Lord said,

*God:* "I will wipe off of the land the human race that I've created: from human beings to livestock to the crawling things to the birds in the skies, because I regret I ever made them."

*Narrator:* But as for Noah, the Lord approved of him. These are Noah's descendants. In his generation, Noah was a moral and exemplary man; he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. In God's sight, the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. God saw that the earth was corrupt, because all creatures behaved corruptly on the earth. God said to Noah,

*God:* "The end has come for all creatures, since they have filled the earth with violence. I am now about to destroy them along with the earth, so make a wooden ark. Make the ark with nesting places and cover it inside and out with tar. This is how you should make it: four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Make a roof for the ark and complete it one foot from the top. Put a door in its side. In the hold below, make the second and third decks. I am now bringing the floodwaters over the earth to destroy everything under the sky that breathes. Everything on earth is about to take its last breath.

But I will set up my covenant with you. You will go into the ark together with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. From all living things—from all creatures—you are to bring a pair, male and female, into the ark with you to keep them alive. From each kind of bird, from each kind of livestock, and from each kind of everything that crawls on the ground—a pair from each will go in with you to stay alive. Take some from every kind of food and stow it as food for you and for the animals.”

*Narrator:* Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him.

After forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made. He sent out a raven, and it flew back and forth until the waters over the entire earth had dried up. Then he sent out a dove to see if the waters on all of the fertile land had subsided, but the dove found no place to set its foot. It returned to him in the ark since waters still covered the entire earth. Noah stretched out his hand, took it, and brought it back into the ark. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out from the ark again. The dove came back to him in the evening, grasping a torn olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the waters were subsiding from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent out the dove, but it didn't come back to him again.

*Narrator:* God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

*God:* “I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth. This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures.” God said to Noah, “This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth.”

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 #713 Touch the Earth Lightly

*1: Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
Nourish the life of the world in our care:  
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear:  
of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness,  
the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you?  
Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*2: Your Word is our salvation,  
the source of endless grace,  
in death and life extending*

*your covenant embrace.  
In Christ we are one body;  
each member has a part:  
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*3: Your Spirit is our teacher,  
the light that guides our search,  
transforming broken people  
into the holy church.  
For feeding us with mercy,  
for wisdom you impart:  
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God by presenting ourselves and our lives.

## GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

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

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray our thanks together:

**All: We offer ourselves with our gifts, Giver and Sustainer of Life, confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Expand our limited vision to embrace new possibilities. We rededicate ourselves to you with our giving. May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of our former thinking and doing. In the Spirit of Christ, we would pray and live. Amen.**

\*HYMN Rise & Shine, and Give God the Glory

*Refrain:*

*Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory*

*Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory*

*Rise and shine and (X) give God the glory, glory,*

*Children of the Lord*

*1: The Lord said to Noah:*

*There's gonna' be a floody, floody (repeat)*

*Get those children (X) out of the muddy, muddy,*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN*

*2: The Lord said to Noah*

*to build him an arky arky (repeat)*

*Build it out of hickory barky, barky,*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN*

*3. The animals, the animals,*

*they came in by twosies, twosies (repeat)*

*Elephants and kangaroosies, roosies*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN*

*4. It rained and poured for forty daysies, daysies (repeat)*

*Almost drove those animals crazies, crazies*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN*

*5. The sun came out and dried up the landy landy (repeat)*

*Everything was fine and dandy, dandy.*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN.*

*6. The animals, the animals, they came off by three-sies, three-sies (repeat)*

*Grizzly bears and chimpanzee-sies, zee-sies*

*Children of the Lord. REFRAIN*

\*SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

# Welcome to 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.*