

Sunday Worship - September 4, 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: From daily worries that distract and distort your life-giving path,

P: gather us, O God.

L: From suffering that overwhelms and weighs heavy on our hearts,

P: gather us, O God.

L: From temptations to escape through worldly addictions and comforts,

P: gather us, O God.

L: We choose you and Christ's way. Help us attend to your presence with us in worship.

All: Let us worship God.

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***HYMN #409 God Is Here!**

*1: God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

*2: Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.*

*3: Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.*

*4: Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!*

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

L: The path of faithfulness is oftentimes difficult and full of obstacles of our own making. Let us humbly approach the God who calls and creates, confessing the sins that turn us away from new life in Christ.

All: Holy God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed life into our bodies.

Yet we take these lives for granted, choosing destructive paths and unhealthy habits.

We turn to idols that addict and enslave, instead of the liberating resources Christ provides.

Forgive our foolishness, God our Redeemer, and grant us the wisdom to follow you in faith. Amen.

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Our God, who restores and resurrects, grants us new life in Jesus Christ.

Know that you are forgiven and live fully in joyful freedom.

P: Thanks be to God! 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

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.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NRSV)

Reader 1: “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

Reader 2: But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Luke 14:25-33 (NRSV) - The Cost of Discipleship

Reader 1: Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’”

Reader 2: Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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 #694 Great God of Every Blessing

*1: Great God of every blessing,
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.*

*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.*

*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.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

ALL: Holy God, take these gifts and bless them for good use to your glory.

May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

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GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(from The Book of Common Worship, 2018)

INVITATION

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

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.

Praise to you, O God, for all your good works.

You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.

You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained ever faithful.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.
He lived among us and told your story.
He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.
He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ
and that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another
until we feast with him and with all your saints
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: God of Abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

**P: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN #536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

*1: Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.*

*2: Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.*

*3: Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.*

*4: Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE