

Sunday Worship - October 16, 2022



Marc Chagall- *David and Bathsheba* -1956

Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Week 7
God's Promises Bring Hope - David and Bathsheba

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

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

Welcome to Worship

Welcome Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman!

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 86)

Leader: Come, Let us worship.

***People:* Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in Your truth;
give us undivided hearts to revere Your name.**

Leader: We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, and we will glorify Your name forever.

***People:* For Your love is great towards us. You are merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Leader: Let us worship, let us praise, let us give thanks!

***HYMN** #436 God of Compassion in Mercy Befriend Us

*1: God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unailing.*

*2: Though we are lost, you have sought us
and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.*

*3: How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: God says to us: When we are in bondage, God offers to set us free. When we are poor, God in Christ offers us riches money cannot buy. When we are lonely and discouraged, the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, pointing us beyond ourselves. Everyone who calls on God for help will be saved. Let us together seek the healing only God can provide.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Mercy, we confess that we have not acknowledged you as the source of our success, our substance, our selves. We have been far more ready to complain when things go wrong than to praise you when all is well. We have fed our bodies with rich food while neglecting to feed our souls. Power and wealth have assumed greater importance than sensitivity and service.

Forgive us, Compassionate Creator, and give us another chance to start over again this week.

Keep us from repeating the terrible blunders of the past or from new evils that could mislead or destroy.

In the name of Christ, we offer this earnest prayer for pardon and deliverance, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God hears our cries and forgives all who truly repent and believe. God has provided all that is necessary for our rescue and redemption. Whoever trusts in God will not be disappointed. Whoever reaches out to others in the Spirit of Christ will know the joy of God's love. We are forgiven.

People: **God loves us and accepts us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

DISCOVERY TIME

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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.

Portions of II Samuel 11 and 12

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, 'This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' So David sent messengers to fetch her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.'

Psalms 51:1-13

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

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.**

SERMON

Whiter than Snow

Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman

HYMN #695 Change My Heart, O God (sing twice)

Verse:

*Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.*

Chorus:

*You are the Potter,
I am the clay;
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.*

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 have been blessed in so many ways. So let us give generously with thanks. We often pray for the hungry and homeless. So let us give with loving hearts. Again and again the church has reminded us of God's love and grace. So let us give to build up the community of faith.

OFFERTORY

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

#70 What Does the Lord Require

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***P:* For your steadfast love and abundant mercy, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that you might create new hearts within each of us, dedicated to your service.**

***HYMN #547 Go, My Children, With my Blessing**

*1: Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine
forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.*

*2: Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can
cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*

*3: Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

***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.

***Living Faithfully in God's Promise* - CURRENT Series, October 16 through November 6, 2022**

10/16/22	Joshua 24:1-26	Joshua Serves God
10/23/22	2 Sam 11 & 12, Psalm 51	David and Bathsheba
10/30/22	1 Kings 3:4-28	Solomon's Wisdom
11/6/22	2 Kings 5:1-15a	Elisha Heals Naaman
11/13/22	Micah 5:2-5, 6:6-8	God promises a ruler from Bethlehem; desires justice, kindness, humility

Joshua and Solomon remember God's covenant and seek to serve God wisely. Living faithfully and trusting God creates opportunities to share God's power with others, yet it can be a struggle to live in the ways God desires. David strays from God, making decisions that bring pain instead of life. Still, God is always faithful and offers forgiveness and love.