

Sunday Worship - October 30, 2022



Solomon Asks for Wisdom by Grovert Flinck (1615-1660)

Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Week 8

Living Faithfully in God's Promises - Solomon's Wisdom

*"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil..."*

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: God who spoke the world into being,
speak your wisdom among us today.

P: We seek your wisdom to live in shalom with all creation.

L: God who loves the world extravagantly,
draw us near to your heart this day.

P: We seek to know your perfect love that casts out all fear.

L: God who gives bread to the hungry and hope to the hopeless,
fill us and move us to be your hands and feet this day..

P: We seek to be signs of your loving kindness in our world.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

***HYMN** #12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*1: Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*2: Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*3: To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*4: Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

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

L: When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us.

With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us pray as I lead us:

In the silence of these moments

we pause to confront ourselves

and name to you the matters that prevent us from fully realizing your grace.

(Pause)

We name things that prevent us from accepting ourselves,

that keep us from accepting one another,

that block us from reaching out

to humankind and to creation.

We abandon ourselves to you in trust; hear us, love us, forgive us, make us new.

Merciful One, hear our prayer. Amen.

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: God is gracious, and so God keeps guiding us along the path of life:
offering correction where we wander, giving praise where we get it right,
and supporting us when the way is difficult.

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.

1 Kings 3:4-28 (NRSV) - Solomon's Wisdom

Reader 1: The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

Reader 2: It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem, where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being and provided a feast for all his servants.

Reader 1: Later, two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. The one woman said, “Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth while she was in the house. Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house; only the two of us were in the house. Then this woman’s son died in the night because she lay on him. She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast and laid her dead son at my breast. When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead, but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne.” But the other woman said, “No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours.” The first said, “No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine.” So they argued before the king.

Reader 2: Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son who is alive, and your son is dead,’ while the other says, ‘Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one.’” So the king said, “Bring me a sword,” and they brought a sword before the king. The king said, “Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one and half to the other.” But the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because compassion for her son burned within her, “Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!” The other said, “It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it.” Then the king responded, “Give her the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother.” All Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to execute justice.

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 #466 Come and Fill Our Hearts

*Come and fill our hearts with Your peace, You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with Your peace, Alleluia!*

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, we return a portion of these gifts in our daily living and offering.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #70 What Does the Lord Require

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 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.

*HYMN #175 Seek Ye First

*1: Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

*2: Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

*3: Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

*POSTLUDE

Worshipping 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.

***God's Promises Bring Hope* - First Series, September 11 through October 9, 2022**

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 bring 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.