

Sunday Worship - October 9, 2022



"Mt. Sinai"

Mira Eisen - Acrylic Painting, contemporary

Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Week 5 God's Promises Bring Hope - The Ten Commandments

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 (Psalm 100)**

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

**P: Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.**

L: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

**P: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving
and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

L: Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

***HYMN #65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

*1: Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.*

*2: Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.*

*3: When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.*

***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: Lifted high on eagle's wings:
soaring high, seeing all before us;
the majesty and splendor of creation,
the sacredness of the earth, sea, sky and human soul.
To see the world as God sees it;
to love the world as God loves it.**

**That is what you want Lord, you want us to recognise
the holy in all the landscapes of creation
and in all the corners of our human heart.
You want us to learn how to live and love together.
You want us to care for one another and act responsibly
towards the world in which we live.
You want us to respect this life we know and recognize it
truly for what it is—a gift of your love.
You want us to cherish human individuality
and to long for true community.
You want us to deal with all that is wrong
and to change what is wrong into what is right.
You want us to be quick to react to injustice and
foster a code of good conduct by which all may live
and know that they are protected.
Merciful God, when we are slow to recognise,
slovenly in action, limited in outlook,
inattentive to human need, disrespectful to others,
and less than worshipful towards your holy name,
forgive us.
Show us mercy,
and lift us again above our limited perspectives
that we might see the world as you see it;
and learn to love life, and our world,
as you love us and all things.
In Jesus' name we pray.
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.

Exodus 19:3-7, 20:1-17 (NRSV) - The Ten Commandments

Reader 1: Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

Reader 2: Then God spoke all these words,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Congregation: “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

Reader 1: “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

Reader 2: "You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

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 #291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

REFRAIN

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.*

*1: You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."*

*2: You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
when they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes.*

*3: You sang in a stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind.*

*4: You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise.*

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 as our tithe 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 #450 Be Thou My Vision

*1: Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*2: Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my
power.*

*3: Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*4: High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

*OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING & 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.

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.