

Sunday Worship - February 5, 2023



The Sermon on the Mount, Part 3 - Narrative Lectionary Week 20
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here we are Lord, your church, uncertain, on an ever changing journey.

People: Show us your path

Leader: Here we are, longing to know your way.

People: Guide us to follow you.

Leader: Here we are, desiring only your comfort.

People: Help us to hear your voice.

ALL: Here we are, God; lead us according to your will.

~Diane Zaerr Brenneman, *Words for Worship 2*, #19

*HYMN #463 How Firm a Foundation

*1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Knowing how hard it is to be honest about those parts of our lives that cause us the greatest pain, the greatest heartache, and the greatest shame, we trust that God welcomes us with open arms, unconditionally, and seeks to mend our hearts.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray:

Because God is good, and has intended us to share that goodness, we open ourselves to nothing less than transformation as together we say:

**All: Holy God,
Holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

Leader: You are the Word behind all words,
the calm at the core of the storm,
the energy that sustains creation.

You are present
in the pain behind the tears,
the laughter in the eyes,
the yearning in the heart.

All these you share, yet your gift to us is much more.

So open us up, Lord,
we whose lives are locked,
whose thoughts are well rehearsed,
whose prayer is predictable.

Open us up to depths we have not explored,
truths we have avoided,
paths we have not followed,
beauty we have yet to admire.

And open us up to Jesus,
in whom all things are held together for God, and for our good.

All: Amen.

~ Wild Goose Resource Group, *A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation*. p. 27

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: O loving Christ, scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills;
begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

P: In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and evermore. Amen.

~Wild Goose Worship Group

***RESPONSE** #596 You Are Holy

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead. You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation.

The old is passed away, and we live as signs of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: 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.

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 (NRSV) - The Sermon on the Mount

Reader 1: “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

Congregation: “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

Reader 2: “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Congregation: “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Reader 1: “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Reader 2: “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Reader 1: Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

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 #821 My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear a clear, though far off hymn, that hails a new creation.

REFRAIN

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

REFRAIN

3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

REFRAIN

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

REFRAIN

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God.

We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

Let us pray together:

All: Happy are we, blessed are we, that know God's presence in our lives,

and who welcome him to give purpose to all we do,

so that we do it not just for ourselves, not just for family and friends,

but rather for all people in God's commonwealth of creation.

Use us this day and every day as the ones that bring blessing to others,

through all we give and offer. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

At This Table
Elizabeth Riechers, soprano

Menzil & Myrin

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

~ from *The Book of Common Worship*

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 The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock

*1. The wise man built his house upon the Rock,
The wise man built his house upon the Rock,
The wise man built his house upon the Rock,
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
But the house on the Rock stood firm.*

*2. The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the sand fell flat.*

Repeat Verse 1

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**