

# Sunday Worship - March 19, 2023



*The Way, Camino 2022* by Catherine Quehl-Engel

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Wilderness Wisdom*

**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

L: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens,  
and Christ will give us rest.

**P: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

L: Let us journey into worship praising the one  
who wore and now offers the robes of righteousness.

**P: Living Lord, may we receive all that you offer here,  
accepting the invitation to be served and to serve.**

~Arlene M. Mark, based on Mt 11:28; Isa 40:31; Ps 16:8-11 (*Words for Worship 1*, Arlene M. Mark, ed. #25)

#### \*HYMN #183 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

*1: Come to me, O weary traveler;  
come to me with your distress;  
come to me, you heavy burdened;  
come to me and find your rest.*

*2: Do not fear, my yoke is easy;  
do not fear, my burden's light;  
do not fear the path before you;  
do not run from me in fright.*

*3: Take my yoke and leave your troubles;  
take my yoke and come with me.  
Take my yoke, I am beside you;  
take and learn humility.*

*4: Rest in me, O weary traveler;  
rest in me and do not fear.  
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;  
rest and cast away your care.*

#### \*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 RECONCILIATION

Leader: Together let us pray and confess:

**All: In this Lenten season, O God,  
we come before you,  
asking for courage to open our eyes.**

**We want to see ourselves as you see us:  
the empty and barren places,  
the halfhearted struggles,  
the faint stirrings of new life.**

**We come, trusting your grace,  
waiting for your illuminating word,  
longing for your healing light.**

**Do not let us be blind to your presence.**

**Shine upon us, O God,  
and make our paths clear,  
for we pray in Christ's name.**

~Marlene Kropf, Elkhart, Ind. (*Words for Worship 1*, Arlene M. Mark, ed. #33)

*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.**

## ANTHEM

DISCOVERY TIME - *Noisy Offering for Southeast Linn Community Center*

## 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.

### Selected Readings About Jesus and Prayer

Mark 1:9-13

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Matthew 6:5-6

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Luke 5:15-16 (After Jesus cleansed a leper.)

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

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

### Wilderness Wisdom

Rev. Dr. Catherine Quehl-Engel

HYMN #795 Healer of Our Every Ill

### REFRAIN

*Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

*1: You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.*

### REFRAIN

*2: In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love.*

### REFRAIN

*3: Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.*

### REFRAIN

*4: You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.*

### REFRAIN

## 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

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.

## GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

~ you may place your offering in basket located at the back of church ~ you may also give online at [www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com)

## OFFERTORY

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** #70 What Does the Lord Require of You?

*What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?*

*Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.*

*To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: 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.**

**HYMN** #79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

*1: Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.*

*Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.*

### REFRAIN

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;*

*The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!*

*We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace,*

*as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*2: Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.*

*Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.*

### REFRAIN

*3: Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.*

*Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.*

### REFRAIN

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Thanks to Catherine Quehl-Engel for preaching and Craig Engel for being our liturgist today.*



**Easter Flowers 2023**

If you are interested in purchasing flowering plants (ie. African Violets, Lilies, Kalanchoe, etc.) for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out this form! The cost is \$10. Please send payment to the church by March 31, 2023.

What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

How many flowers are you purchasing? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person the flower is in honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to take the flowers home after Easter service or have them taken to shut-ins? (Please circle one):

Take home

Delivered to shut-ins