

## Sunday Worship - March 26, 2023



*Separation of Sheep and Goats - 20th century reproduction of a 6th century Byzantine mosaic*

*Narrative Lectionary Week 27 - The Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Parables of Jesus: When Did We See You?*

**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa**

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

## Welcome to Worship

*\*Please stand if able*

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

### INTROIT

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

**People: The Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: Let us extol God in the congregation of the people;  
let us praise God in our assembly.

**People: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
God's greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;  
Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

**People: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of God's glory.**

~ Words for Worship, Arlene M. Mark, editor, #96 (based on numerous psalms)

#### \*HYMN #386 Come, Worship God

*1: Come worship God, who is worthy of honor;  
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!  
You are the rock of your people's salvation  
to whom our jubilant praises belong.*

*2: Ruled by your might are the heights of the  
mountains;  
Held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,  
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.*

*3: We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;  
You are our Maker, and to you we pray.  
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;  
great is the one whom we worship this day!*

*4: Now let us listen, for you speak among us;  
Open our hearts to receive what you say.  
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,  
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!*

#### \*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: Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations:**

**We confess that we have not seen your face  
among our neighbors in need.**

**We have not shared our food with the hungry;  
we have not offered clothes to the destitute  
or shelter to the homeless.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger,  
nor have we visited prisoners.**

**We have not paid attention to these, your siblings  
and, in our neglect, we have failed to serve you.**

**Lord, forgive us;  
open our eyes to recognize your beloved family,  
and give us the blessing of sincere repentance  
that we may know the joy of eternal life with you  
and all the saints in this world and in the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*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

### 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 25:31-46 (The Message)

Reader 1: “When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

Reader 2: “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,

I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,

I was homeless and you gave me a room,

I was shivering and you gave me clothes,

I was sick and you stopped to visit,

I was in prison and you came to me.’

**Congregation: “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’**

Reader 1: Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

Reader 2: “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

I was homeless and you gave me no bed,

I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,

Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

**Congregation: “Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’**

Reader 1: “He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

“Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

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 #767 Together We Serve

*1: Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending God's love to the last and the least.*

*2: We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.*

*3: We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.*

*4. Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.*

## 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

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church or given 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: For your blessing today and every day,  
we give you our thanks.**

**For your provision today and every day,  
we offer our gratitude.**

**With the privilege to share what we have  
and to redistribute blessing to others**

**we ask you now to accept our humble gifts.**

**Use them for the building of your kingdom  
here on earth**

**for the sake of one and all. Amen.**

HYMN #765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

*May the God of hope go with us everyday,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation*

Thank you to the following people for sharing time and talents this morning!

*Liturgist:* Sue Deibner

*AV Operators:* Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber

*Coffee Hour:* Pete Rian and Teresa Sullivan

The Choir

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:15am - Choir rehearsal in Community Room

9:15am - Nursery care is available

9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary & Online

*Sunday School for PreK and up! Children will leave with teachers following Discovery Time (children's sermon)*

10:30am Coffee Hour in Social Hall

Tuesday, March 28

1-3pm Church office hours

6:30pm MVL Childcare Solutions in Social Hall

Wednesday, March 29

6:30pm Youth Group at UMC

Thursday, March 30

6:30pm Healing with Sound and Vibrations in Community Room

Friday, March 31

9am-12pm Church office hours

Sunday, April 2 - Palm/Passion Sunday

8:15am Choir rehearsal in Community Room

9:15am Nursery care is available

9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary & Online

*Sunday School for PreK and up! Children will leave with teachers following Discovery Time (children's sermon)*

10:30am Quarterly Congregational Conversation

10:30am Coffee Hour in Social Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are sent out via email each Friday. If you would like to receive these, please contact Donna in the church office ([office@firstpresmv.com](mailto:office@firstpresmv.com)).

### HEALING WITH SOUND & VIBRATION EXPERIENCE

Thursday, March 30 in the Community Room + 6:30-7:30pm

Experience deep relaxation, surrender, Oneness, and inner peace through singing bowls by candlelight. Donation of \$20 requested. For more information and to register, go to [www.calmwithcatherine.com](http://www.calmwithcatherine.com). Prayerfully offered by Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel.

### PALM TO PASSION SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, April 2 is Palm Sunday! Our service will include a palm processional (using fair trade palm branches), the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper\*, and reading through the Passion narrative according to the Gospel of Matthew.

*\*Please make us aware if you need a gluten free option or have other dietary restrictions so that we can welcome you safely to the Lord's table!*

### QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION NEXT SUNDAY

Following worship next Sunday, all are invited to remain in the sanctuary for a time of conversation about various things happening in the church, including the AV System, our involvement with the MVL Child Care Solutions, potential fundraising activities, and other upcoming events.

### NEW MEMBERS' CLASS COMING SOON

We have several people interested in becoming members of First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon. If this is something you would like more information about, please let Pastor Lori Wunder know ([lori.wunder@firstpresmv.com](mailto:lori.wunder@firstpresmv.com) or 319-431-2227).



### 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