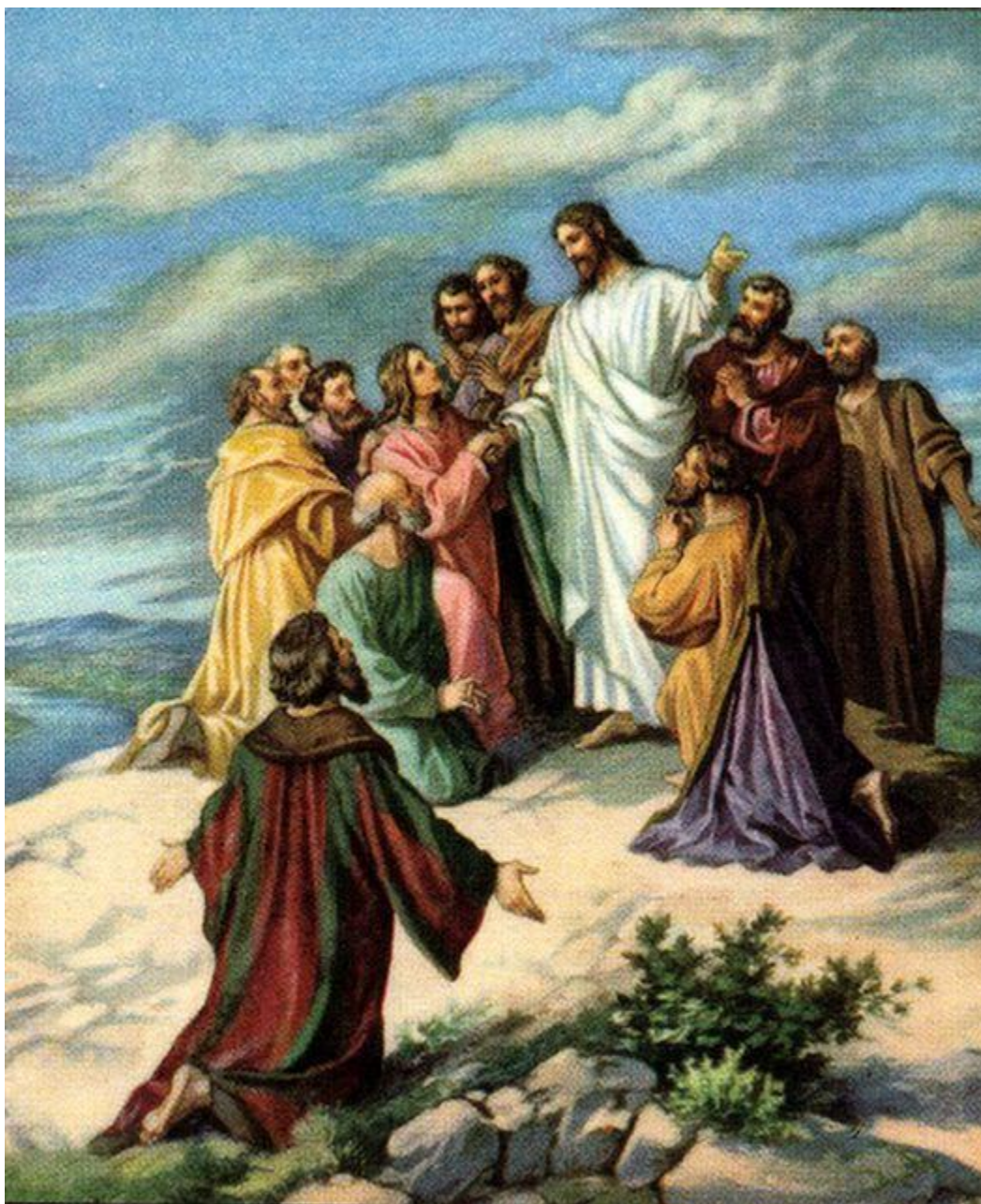


Sunday Worship - April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter



Narrative Lectionary Week 29 - Second Sunday of Easter
The Gospel of Matthew: The Great Commission

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 you are able*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sometimes believing, sometimes doubting

P: We come to God's house.

L: Sometimes weeping, sometimes laughing

P: We come to God's house.

L: Sometimes afraid, sometimes joyful

P: We come to God's house.

L: Whatever has happened to us, here we are welcome.

P: This day and this house belong to God.

~from Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday p. 130

*HYMN #664 Morning Has Broken

*1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!*

*2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.*

*3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!*

*PRAYER FOR EASTERTIDE

L: Let us pray together:

ALL: Almighty God,

You called us into being and created us to be in community.

We thank you for our church, for this family of God.

**We are mindful that our community of faith extends beyond
these walls and borders and into the whole world.**

You continue to call us to live in faithful community with others.

**May we be reminded of our forebearers of the faith
who gathered together and shared all they had with others.**

**May we be reminded of how they broke bread together
and praised you in worship and fellowship.**

May we live out their example in our world and reach out to others in need.

**God, call us away from the ways of the world,
where we desire what others have and dwell on what we don't have,
where we judge others by how they live differently than how we live,
ways that separate and dehumanize us.**

**Guide us instead into your way of love and justice,
where we see each other as siblings,
where we are called to live in relationship with each other.
May we continually walk towards building up your kin-dom on earth.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Do not be afraid! In Christ, God comes near to us, bringing hope, joy and forgiveness into our lives.

ALL: God gathers up the fragments of our lives and shapes us into new people. For this reason, we lift our thanks to God. Amen.

***RESPONSE #243 Be Not Afraid**

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: This is the Good News—the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

P: Hallelujah!

L: This is the Good News—the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

P: Hallelujah!

L: Christ is our peace,

P: the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME *Noisy Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing*

SCRIPTURE

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 28:16-20 (NRSV) - The Great Commission

Reader 1: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them,

Reader 2: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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 #774 There Is Now a New Creation

*1 There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.*

*2 Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.*

*3 Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.*

*4 Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.*

*5 There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!*

A MOMENT FOR PRAYER

Pray the Day - PRAISE

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.

OFFERTORY

Patricia Hogan, flute

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church or given online at www.firstpresmv.com

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #607 Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Lord God, you have given us much from the stores of your love.

Your pockets are deep and you keep giving;

time after time we experience your gracious hand as it provides us with blessing after blessing.

In comparison we have little to give—or so we think.

When we make our offering,

we do so recognizing the immense cost of love revealed by the cross and empty tomb,

and we come with thankfulness for your gift to us.

May we be extravagantly generous in the commitments we make,

as we live our lives faithfully as your servants in the world. Amen.

***HYMN #246 Christ Is Alive!**

*1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.*

*3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*4 People of God, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

***APRIL BIRTHDAY BLESSING & 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 helping with our service this morning:

Ava Willems, Liturgist
Patricia Hogan, Special Music
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV Crew

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor
Jonathan Walsh, Director of Christian Education
Julia Andrews, Director of Music
Donna Warhover, Office Manager
Trent Bowman, Custodian