

Sunday Worship - May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Baptism

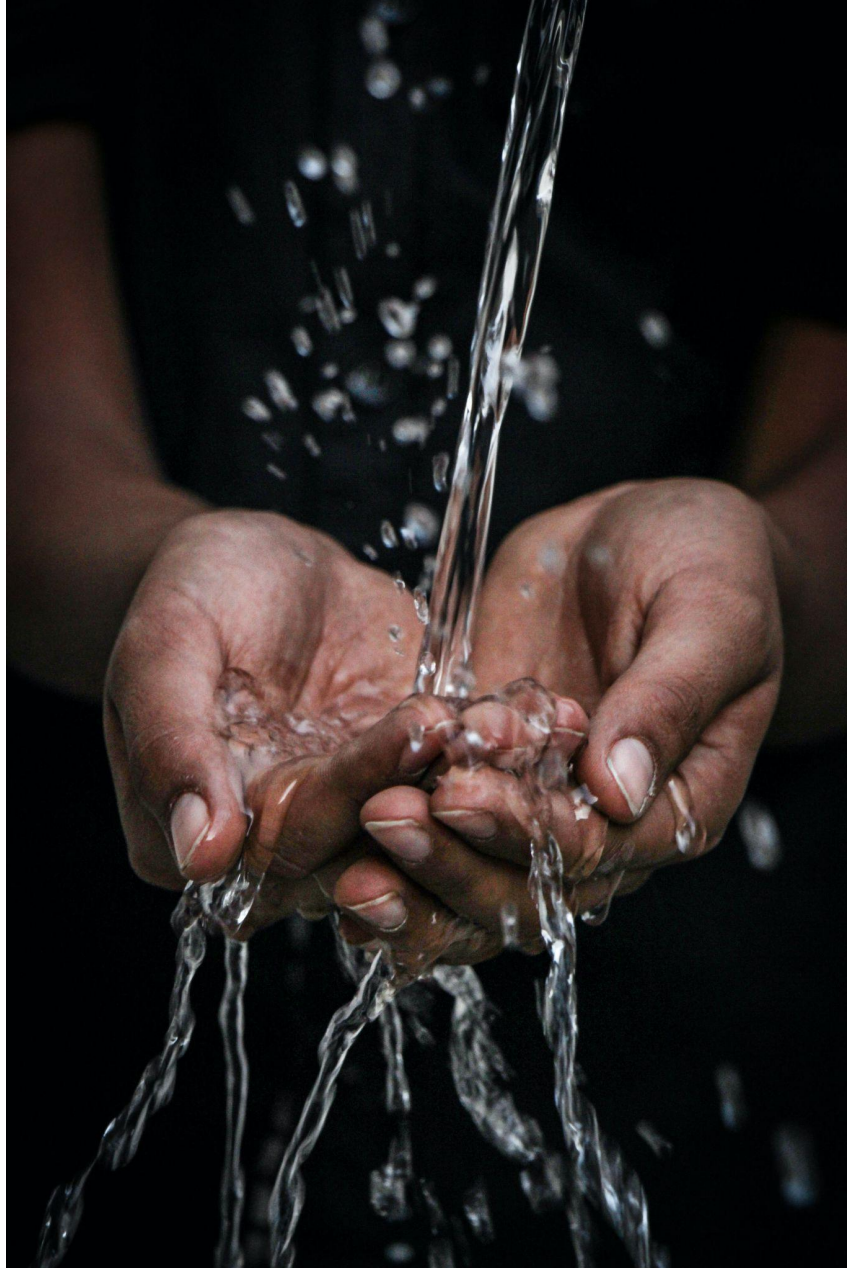


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Narrative Lectionary Week 33 - The Season of Easter
The Letter to the Romans: God's Love Poured Out

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.

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Almighty Creator, who hast made all things,

**P: The world cannot express all thy glories,
even though the grass and the trees should sing.**

L: God has wrought so great a multitude of wonders
that they cannot be equaled.

P: No letters can contain them, no letters express them.

L: The one who made the wonder of the world
will save us, has saved us.

P: It is not too great a toil to praise the Trinity.

~ Old Welsh, ninth century (translated by Ifor Williams) from *A Celtic Psalter*

*HYMN #14 For the Beauty of the Earth

*1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies: REFRAIN*

REFRAIN:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: REFRAIN*

*3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: REFRAIN*

*4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: REFRAIN*

*PRAYER FOR EASTERTIDE

L: Let us pray together:

**ALL: O God our Creator, your kindness has brought us
the gift of a new morning.**

Help us to leave yesterday,

and not to covet tomorrow

but to accept the uniqueness of today.

**By your love celebrated in your Word,
seen in your Son,
brought near by your Spirit,
take from us what we need to carry no longer,
so that we may be free again
to choose to serve you
and to be served by each other.**

Time of Silence

L: 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.

~ from the Wild Goose Worship Group's A Wee Worship Book

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Friends, hear this good news! In Christ, we are a new creation.

P: The old is passed away, and the possibility of new life is ours. Let us live as signs of reconciliation and love!

*RESPONSE Day by Day (sing through three times)

Day by day, day by day

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly, day by day (by day by day by day)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: We are the people of the risen Christ,

P: Sharing the good news of love and peace!

L: Christ's peace is upon us,

P: Sending us into the world.

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kay Marie Ellen Lenhart, child of Jon and Sara Lenhart

ANTHEM

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.

Romans 5:1-11 (Common English Bible) - God's Love Poured Out

Reader 1: Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Reader 2: While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. It isn't often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God

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 #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.

OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: Generous God, we give thanks for all that you have provided for us.

Daily we respond by offering our gifts and ourselves to you with the hope that you will use them and us for your work in the world. Open our hearts and minds to what you are up to, O God. Give us eyes to see the world as you see it, and the imagination to dream—and work for—the world you desire. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

*HYMN #549 May the Love of the Lord (sing twice)

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul. May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day. May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

*BLESSING OF MAY BIRTHDAYS & 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:

Jennifer Lengwin, Liturgist
Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV Crew
Kristy Parker, Co-Officiant
The Choir

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