

Sunday Worship - September 3, 2023
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



Photo by Beth McCollum

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

DIY INTROIT HYMN #414 Be Still and Know That I Am God

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather hoping to see God,

All: here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.

Leader: We can see God

All: when we show one another honor,

Leader: when we pursue hospitality to strangers,

All: when we live in harmony with one another,

Leader: when we rejoice in hope.

All: Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

~ written by Molly Spangler © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

*HYMN #19 God of Great and God of Small

1. *God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong, REFRAIN*

REFRAIN: Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

2. *God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour, REFRAIN*
3. *God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right, REFRAIN*
4. *God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore, REFRAIN*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God of love,
you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are,
you tell us to bless one another,
you encourage us to do good.**

**But we have not listened to your words.
Instead of loving we have practiced hatred,
instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing,
instead of doing good, we have sought to get even.
Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again,
and encouragement to make your ways, our ways.
We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.**

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God's love for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God's grace washes over us seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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*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: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV Updated Edition) - Jesus Foretells His Death on the Cross

Reader 1: From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Reader 2: Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #503 Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

- 1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation, chosen by you, to be counted your friends; yours is the strength that sustains dedication; ours, a commitment we know never ends.*
- 2. Here, at your table, confirm our intention; give it your seal of forgiveness and grace; teach us to serve without pride or pretension, Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.*
- 3. When, at your table, each time of returning, vows are renewed and our courage restored, may we increasingly glory in learning all that it means to accept you as Lord.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Why do we give to the church?

We give because we have received so much from God.

We give to practice the gratitude for all that God has done for us.

We give because we trust that God can do more with what we have than we can do alone.

So let us practice our gratitude through the giving of our gifts..

**All: Gift-giving God, we bring you what we can offer,
our time, our talents, our finances, our very selves,
in the hope that what we bring, you might magnify, and multiply,
for the work of your love in the world. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *A Communion Liturgy of the Iona Community*

INVITATION

Leader: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

So come to this table,

you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

you who have been here often

and you who have not been for a while;

you who have tried to follow Jesus,

and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Let us pray.

**All: Loving God,
through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread,
so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.
We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared
among his community through the centuries,
and shares with us now.
Made one in Christ, and one with each other,
we offer these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF 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.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,

for in the communion of your love

Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,

with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.

With the angels of light who envelop us,

with all the saints before and beside us,

with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you.

And with our loved ones, separate from us now,

who yet in this mystery are close to us,

we join in the song of your unending greatness:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who walks with us the road of our world's suffering,

and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to you. In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread.

He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

**With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

The gifts of God for the people of God ...

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom.

May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.**

Amen.

*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.*

*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:

Patricia Hogan, Accompanist

Elizabeth Riechers, Liturgist

Shane and Zay Austerman, AV Crew

Communion Servers

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Jonathan Walsh, Director of Christian Education

Director of Music - Vacant Position

Donna Warhover, Office Manager

Trent Bowman, Custodian