

Sunday Worship - October 8, 2023
Narrative Lectionary Year 2, Week 5



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Law & Wilderness: God Gives the Ten Commandments
Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From generation to generation,

All: our God is the Lord.

Leader: For our ancestors, yes, and also for us, here, today,

All: our God is the Lord.

Leader: In the stories of old, and the story we are still living,

All: our God is the Lord.

Leader: Listen — not just with your ears but with your whole self:

All: our God is the Lord, and we will love God with all our being.

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*HYMN #388 Come All You People

*Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.*

*U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwari;
U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwari;
U-ya-i mo-se, ti-na-ma-te Mwari;
U-ya-i mo-se zvi-no.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We know that God's mercy is unfailing, and so we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us make our confession together:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God of all times and places,
you have created a people and made us one with each other and with you.
We confess that we rarely think of ourselves as one human family,
even today let alone across the ages.
We benefit from things our ancestors have done,
without thinking of the cost borne by others in your family or the earth.
We choose not to think of how our choices affect the future we will never see.
Forgive us when we disconnect ourselves from responsibility to both past and future.
Forgive us our self-centeredness
and our unwillingness to recognize the gift of being one part of your story.
Forgive us when we see your way of life
as only a set of rules by which we can judge others but not ourselves.**

**Help us to hear and obey,
learning your care and compassion for all your people and your world.**

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Pause for silent prayer.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love — God is a thousand parts compassion for every four parts judgment. Trusting in God's steadfast love to the thousandth generation, take up your place in this forgiven family, and live in that grace so that all may know the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Hear and believe this good news:

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

All: In Christ, God embraces us, forgives us, and strengthens us to live a renewed life.

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*RESPONSE #583 Gloria, Gloria (in Latin)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (As we approach flu season, you are invited to share the peace in a variety of ways including waving, bowing, bumping elbows, etc.)

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.

Deuteronomy 5:1-21 (Common English Bible) - God Gives the Ten Commandments

Reader 1: Moses called out to all Israel, saying to them: "Israel! Listen to the regulations and the case laws that I'm recounting in your hearing right now. Learn them and carefully do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Mount Horeb. The Lord didn't make this covenant with our ancestors but with us—all of us who are here and alive right now. The Lord spoke with you face-to-face on the mountain from the very fire itself. At that time, I was standing between the Lord and you, declaring to you the Lord's word, because you were terrified of the fire and didn't go up on the mountain."

Reader 2: The Lord said:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You must have no other gods before me. Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to them or worship them because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins—even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

Keep the Sabbath day and treat it as holy, exactly as the Lord your God commanded: Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Don't do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your oxen or donkeys or any of your animals, or the immigrant who is living among you—so that your male and female servants can rest just like you. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That's why the Lord your God commands you to keep the Sabbath day.

Honor your father and your mother, exactly as the Lord your God requires, so that your life will be long and so that things will go well for you on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife.

Do not crave your neighbor's house, field, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Common English Bible) - The Shema

Reader 1: Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

SERMON

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #453 Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

1. *Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood; God has come to you. REFRAIN*

REFRAIN: God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

2. *They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word. REFRAIN*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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: With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.

With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.

With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our money, this day and every day.

OFFERTORY

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

*DOXOLOGY #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

We offer ourselves with our gifts, Giver and Sustainer of Life, confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Expand our limited vision to embrace new possibilities. We rededicate ourselves to you with our giving. May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of our former thinking and doing. In the Spirit of Christ, we would pray and live. Amen.

*HYMN #63 The Lord is God

- 1. The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God the maker of all things and giver of our days.*
- 2. With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might, O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.*
- 3. At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.*
- 4. The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

*OCTOBER 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:

Mina Massaquoi, Accompanist

Emily Fitzpatrick, Liturgist

Gerald Gerber, AV

Becky Ahrens, Fellowship Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Jonathan Walsh, Director of Christian Education and Treasurer

Position Vacant, Music Director

Donna Warhover, Office Manager

Trent Bowman, Custodian