

Sunday Worship - June 25, 2023



“Come and See” digital painting by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, © a sanctified art

“I’ve Been Meaning to Ask...”
Summer Worship Series - Where Did You Get to Know Me?
John 1:35-51

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: O God, you have searched us and known us.

All: When we sit down and when we rise up. When we worship and pray and praise and serve;

Leader: You discern our thoughts from far away -

All: Our hopes and dreams, our worries and fears. You search out our paths and are acquainted with all our ways.

Leader: Even before a word is on our tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

All: You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us. We praise you! Wonderful are your works! We worship you, O God!

~Adapted from Psalm 139

*HYMN #757 Today We All Are Called to Be

*1. Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*2. God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*3. Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*4. May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Leader: Since all of us have fallen short of God's intentions for us, let us make our confession together:

All: You have called us, O God, to follow your Son Jesus of Nazareth.

We have not willingly followed his example of being servant to all.

We find it hard to serve even those we love.

We are more apt to seek revenge on those who hurt us rather than to serve and care for them.

We want the greatness that the world promises: wealth, popularity, material goods and position.

We are less ready to look for greatness in serving others as their slave.

We have even tried to turn Jesus into a proud conqueror rather than the loving Servant he truly is.

Forgive us and by the power of your Holy Spirit so fill us with the love of Jesus that we may truly follow in his footsteps and serve all we encounter. Amen

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Family of faith, if you ever ask yourself,

“Can anything good come from this messy and human life of mine?”

Remember this: God is always whispering, “Yes.”

You were created in the image of God.

Your origin story is one of goodness and love from the very beginning.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All: God is here. God is at work among us.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*RESPONSE #435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word,

And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME - Noisy Offering

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.

John 1:35-51 (NRSV) - Jesus Calls Disciples

Reader 1: The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Reader 2: The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

Where Did You Get to Know Me?

Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman

HYMN #488 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

1. I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

*I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.*

2. When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.

You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.

*If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.*

3. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

*When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.*

4. I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

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: Friends, we are being invited to come and see a deeper life of faith.

One of the ways we can say yes is by giving what we have—time, money, and/or our talents.

So let us say yes to this invitation of faith together each and every day. Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

OFFERTORY

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

*DOXOLOGY #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: All that we are and all that we have, are gifts from you, most generous Spirit.
Unclench our hands from grasping, free our hearts from the need of having,
and channel our work into sharing your generosity among all your children. Amen.**

~Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brenneman, #144

*HYMN #754 Help Us Accept Each Other

*1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.*

*4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

*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:

Larry Petrick, Liturgist

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV Crew