

Sunday Worship - November 19, 2023
Narrative Lectionary Year 2, Week 11



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The Song of the Vineyard & the Stump of Jesse
Isaiah 5:1-7, 11:1-9

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: When all seems chaos,
can we look past the obvious to see something deeper?

Pulpit Side: When we feel like all is lost,

can we listen with our hearts instead of our ears?

Piano Side: When destruction appears the order of the day,
can we recognize an opening for something new?

**All: In the midst of all that is around us and within us,
we try to imagine hope.**

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*HYMN #12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.*

*3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

*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

**You work hard among us, O God,
clearing away what hinders your purpose,
planting seeds and nurturing growth,
pruning and tending to bear more fruit,
watching and protecting from harm...
so that we your people may live abundantly,
creating your community of hope and justice and love on earth.
We confess that we are indeed hard work.**

**We hold on to the stones that hinder and break other tools,
because we like them just where they've always been, thank you.
We resist your pruning,
unwilling to let go of things that sap our energy even when they don't produce a harvest.
We hide behind the walls and try to protect ourselves from having to mingle with others,
because we don't like what the cross-pollination of new ideas might ask of us.
We assume that if we've gotten close enough to our ideas about you,
that's the same as faithfully following,
and we don't need to double check or listen again.
Forgive us, O God, when we rest on our assumptions rather than on your word.
Forgive us for allowing close-enough to count even when it is nowhere near your call.
Forgive us for thinking we can fool you with a rotten harvest
while we serve ourselves instead of your kingdom.
Renew us in your love, Lord,
and draw us ever closer to you that we may at last align with your purpose.
We ask in the name of the One on whom your Spirit rests. Amen.**

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Pause for silent prayer.*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: God sees well beyond what our human senses can perceive, and knows the full truth. And knowing that full truth, still God chose to call us, come among us, and reconcile us to the divine heart. Know that God's justice and forgiveness make the impossible possible, and live in the hope of God's kingdom coming among us, even now.

Hear and believe this good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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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 - Noisy Offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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.

Isaiah 5:1-5 (NRSV-Updated Edition) - The Song of the Vineyard

Reader 1: I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

Reader 2: And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

Reader 1: And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

Reader 2: For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Isaiah 11:1-9 (NRSVUE) - The Stump of Jesse & the Peaceable Kingdom

Reader 1: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader 2: The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

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 #79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

1. *Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.*
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. REFRAIN

*REFRAIN: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

2. *Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. REFRAIN*

*REFRAIN: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

3. *Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. 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 #37 Let All Things Now Living

- Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.*
- By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise;
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation.