

Sunday Worship - November 26, 2023

Narrative Lectionary Year 2, Week 12

*Christ the King Sunday
& a Service of Marriage*



LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

*Just as I have loved you,
you also should*
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.



+ JOHN 13:34

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 (from Psalm 89:1-4, NRSV)

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

All: with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

All: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN #32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

- 1. I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*
- 2. I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*
- 3. There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

*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: O God, in your goodness have mercy on us. Save us from all that would hinder us:
from blindness, which is not aware that we have hurt others;
from pride, which cannot admit that we are wrong;
from self-will, which can see nothing but our own way;
from self-righteousness, which can see no flaw within us;
from callousness, which has sinned so often that we cease to care;
from defiance, which is not even sorry for our wrongdoing;
from evasion, which puts the blame on someone or something else;
from hearts so hardened that we cannot admit our mistakes or ask forgiveness.**

God of mercy, open up the closed places in us; create space for humility and forgiveness. Then fill us with your love and mercy that it flows out of us into others. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

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

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.

2 Kings 22:1-20 (Common English Bible) - King Josiah Find the Scroll

Reader 1: Josiah was 8 years old when he became king, and he ruled for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah; she was Adaiah's daughter and was from Bozkath. He did what was right in the Lord's eyes, and walked in the ways of his ancestor David—not deviating from it even a bit to the right or left. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah's rule, he sent the secretary Shaphan, Azaliah's son and Meshullam's grandson, to the Lord's temple with the following orders: "Go to the high priest Hilkiah. Have him carefully count the money that has been brought to the Lord's temple and that has been collected from the people by the doorkeepers. It should be given to the supervisors in charge of the Lord's temple, who in turn should pay it to those who are in the Lord's temple, repairing the temple—the carpenters, the builders, and the masons. It should be used to pay for lumber and quarried stone to repair the temple. But there's no need to check on them regarding the money they receive, because they are honest workers."

Reader 2: The high priest Hilkiah told Shaphan the secretary: "I have found the Instruction scroll in the Lord's temple." Then Hilkiah turned the scroll over to Shaphan, who read it.

Shaphan the secretary then went to the king and reported this to him: "Your officials have released the money that was found in the temple and have handed it over to those who supervise the work in the Lord's temple." Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll," and he read it out loud before the king.

As soon as the king heard what the Instruction scroll said, he ripped his clothes. The king ordered the priest Hilkiah, Shaphan's son Ahikam, Micaiah's son Achbor, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the royal officer as follows: "Go and ask the Lord on my behalf, and on behalf of the people, and on behalf of all Judah concerning the contents of this scroll that has been found. The Lord must be furious with us because our ancestors failed to obey the words of this scroll and do everything written in it about us."

Reader 1: So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah. She was married to Shallum, Tikvah's son and Harhas' grandson, who was in charge of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem in the second district. When they spoke to her, she replied, "This is what the Lord, Israel's God, says: Tell this to the man who sent you to me: This is what the Lord says: I am about to bring disaster on this place and its citizens—all the words in the scroll that Judah's king has read! My anger burns against this place, never to be quenched, because they've deserted me and have burned incense to other gods, angering me by everything they have done. But also say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to question the Lord: This is what the Lord, Israel's God, says about the message you've just heard: Because your heart was broken and you submitted before the Lord when you heard what I said about this place and its citizens—that they will become a horror and a curse—and because you ripped your clothes and cried before me, I have listened to you, declares the Lord. That's why I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will go to your grave in peace. You won't experience the disaster I am about to bring on this place." They reported Huldah's words to the king.

Reader 2: The king sent a message, and all of Judah's and Jerusalem's elders gathered before him. Then the king went up to the LORD's temple, together with all the people of Judah and all the citizens of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets, and all the people, young and old alike. There the king read out loud all the words of the covenant scroll that had been found in the LORD's temple. The king stood beside the pillar and made a covenant with the LORD that he would follow the LORD by keeping his commandments, his laws, and his regulations with all his heart and all his being in order to fulfill the words of this covenant that were written in this scroll. All of the people accepted the covenant.

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 #274 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

- You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.*
- Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss,
you, the everlasting instant; you who are both gift and cost.*
- You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach away that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.*
- Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory; worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.*

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

~ 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.

A SERVICE OF MARRIAGE

Linda Nost & Larry Richardson

SPECIAL MUSIC In This Very Room

Katie Burge, soloist

Sue Gradwell, accompanist

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE

OPENING PRAYER

QUESTIONS OF INTENT

AFFIRMATION OF THE FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

Do you, the families of Larry and Linda give your blessing to their marriage, and do you promise to do everything in your power to support them in their marriage?

We do.

Will all of you witnessing these vows do everything in your power to support Linda and Larry in their marriage?

We will.

MARRIAGE VOWS

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

PRAYER & 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.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

*HYMN #727 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant L&L & Linda and Darin recess

1. *Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*
2. *We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*
3. *I will hold the Christlight for you in the night-time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*
4. *I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*
5. *When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*
6. *Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Linda & Larry will greet people in the hallway outside of the office following the service.
All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy a brunch catered by Gwen's.*

Thank you to the following people for helping with our service this morning:

Mina Massaquoi, Accompanist
Craig Engel, Liturgist
Scott Larson, AV

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