

Sunday Worship - April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter



Photo by [Egor Myznik](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Narrative Lectionary Year 2 Week 32
Season of Easter: Peter Heals
Acts 3:1-10

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: Come, it is the time for worship —

ALL: the time we come together in praise and prayer.

Leader: Celebrating resurrection, still singing our Hallelujahs,

ALL: we come together in praise and prayer.

Leader: With joy and with sadness, carrying all the experiences of life,

ALL: we come together in praise and prayer.

Leader: In the middle of everything going on in our lives and in the world, this is the time we pause to look intently toward the living God,

ALL: coming together in praise and prayer.

~©Teri Peterson for BibleWorm

***OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: All our power to do good comes from you,
Source of all being, breath of life.

All our power to praise and to pray comes from you,
in your grace and mercy.

The very gift of life, and of resurrection life, comes from you, Holy One.

Take us by the hand today,

raise us up to stand in your presence and fill us with wonder and amazement,
in the name of Jesus Christ whom you raised from the dead. Amen.

~©Teri Peterson for BibleWorm

***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 & PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Leader: To truly come before God requires that we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others.

In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God:

ALL: You invite us to pay attention, O God —

to notice the people around us,

even when we might easily get wrapped up in our own plans or habits.

We confess that we often do not notice the ways our habits and plans exclude others.

**Until it happens to us, we don't see the people who cannot get in to our spaces,
who cannot access our community.**

**We confess that we prefer to look away from those who make us uncomfortable,
whose bodies or minds or spirits work differently from ours,
whose life experiences challenge our worldviews.**

Forgive us, God of inclusion,

**when we look past exclusion and think we cannot change it,
because it's the way it's always been.**

Forgive us, God of the downtrodden,

when we look away from those we don't think deserve our help.

Forgive us, God of the impossible,

when we limit your love to a transaction,

refusing to take a risk that might lead us past what we think we are capable of.

Expand our imagination,

to the possibility of healing,

to the possibility of resurrection,

to the possibility of amazement,

to the possibility of community,

to the possibility of love.

We ask in the name of the One who makes all things possible: Jesus the Christ. Amen.

~©Teri Peterson for BibleWorm

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love.

God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN #583 Gloria, Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all!

ALL: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

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.

Acts 3:1-10 (Common English Bible) – Peter Heals

Reader 1: Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. ²Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. ⁴Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them.

Reader 2: ⁶Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" ⁷Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. ⁸Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him.

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 #343 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (verses 1-3, 5-6)

- 1. Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O son of Man.*
- 2. In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.*
- 3. From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.*
- 5. O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city's streets again.*
- 6. Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above shall come the city of our God.*

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: As recipients of abundant life in Christ, we offer our gifts to God.

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

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

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #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

ALL: Lord, receive from us what we have to give.

**Not just in terms of the monetary offering we make today or at other times,
but also the skills and talents that each of us possess.**

Take all of this now, and mix it up together with the cohesive powers of your Spirit.

Use what we bring and offer for the good of your world.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #795 Healer of Our Every Ill

1. *You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. REFRAIN*

*REFRAIN: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

2. *In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. REFRAIN*
3. *Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. REFRAIN*
4. *You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. REFRAIN*

*APRIL BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

Pat Hogan, Accompanist

Gerald Gerber and Scott Larson, AV

Pete Rian & Teresa Sullivan, Fellowship Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Kristi Karwal-Clark, Interim Director of Christian Education

Position Vacant, Music Director

Donna Warhover, Office Manager

Jonathan Walsh, Treasurer

Trent Bowman, Custodian