

**Sunday Worship - April 28, 2024**  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



**Narrative Lectionary Year 2 Week 34**  
**Season of Easter: Paul & the Church at Corinth**  
Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**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: We gather as many individuals,

**ALL: yet we are one body.**

Leader: We come from many paces,

**ALL: yet we come to one place.**

Leader: We gather as God's many children,

**ALL: yet we are one church.**

**ALL: We are one body, in this place, as God's church. Alleluia!**

*~Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brennehan, #16*

**\*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.*

**\*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: Risen Lord,**

**there is so much work to be done in your world,**

**that we confess that we are overwhelmed, and we have lost focus.**

**We have gotten caught up in minutiae**

**and created in-groups and out-groups, circles of influence in our community,**

**ignoring your call to unity of purpose.**

**Forgive us for abandoning the core of your message**

**while clinging to what makes us comfortable.**

**Forgive us for caring more about preserving our past**

**than we do about being faithful to you in this moment and into the future.**

**Draw us once again into the foolishness of your life —**

**life that lifts up where the world tramples down,**

**life that brings together where the world separates,**

**life that overcomes even the worst the world can do.**

**Breathe your life into us, that we in turn may live as your Body, for your glory. Amen.**

*~©Teri Peterson for BibleWorm, adapted*

*Time of silent prayer*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Know this: you are loved by God, and chosen to live in Christ's way so that others may know love as well. Take up your belovedness, and share it. Amen.

**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 18:1-4 (CEB) – Paul in Corinth

Reader 1: After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus. He had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul visited with them. Because they practiced the same trade, he stayed and worked with them. They all worked with leather. Every Sabbath he interacted with people in the synagogue, trying to convince both Jews and Greeks.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (CEB) – Rival Groups in Corinth

Reader 2: Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose.

Reader 1: My brothers and sisters, Chloe's people gave me some information about you, that you're fighting with each other. What I mean is this: that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," "I belong to Apollos," "I belong to Cephas," "I belong to Christ."

Reader 2: Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul's name? Thank God that I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! Oh, I baptized the house of Stephanas too. Otherwise, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

**ALL: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.**

Mark 9:34-35

Reader 1: They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all."

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 #308 O God in Whom All Life Begins

- 1. O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.*
- 2. Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.  
So let your varied gifts combine to glorify your Name  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.*
- 3. Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;  
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.  
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sign, and pray;  
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.*

## 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](http://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, each and every day.**

**We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## \*HYMN #317 In Christ there is No East or West (Sung to #817 DUNLAP'S CREEK)

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.*
- 3. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.*
- 4. In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

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

Pat Hogan, Accompanist  
Gerald Gerber and Scott Larson, AV  
Craig Engel, Liturgist  
Erin Lane, 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