

Sunday Worship - May 12, 2024
Seventh Sunday of Easter



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Narrative Lectionary Year 2 Week 36
Season of Easter: Paul & the Church at Corinth
1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-58

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: Christ was raised!

ALL: And so we lift up our hearts with joy, for death has been defeated.

Leader: Christ was raised!

ALL: And so we lift up our eyes to see the promise that all may live in him.

Leader: Christ was raised!

ALL: And so we lift up our voices in thanks and praise for God's victory.

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*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: We have heard the story, O God,
and now we pray for the grace to stand firm in it,
to take up our part in the story you are still telling —
the story of life that overcomes,
love that reaches beyond the borders we thought were solid,
grace that saves and saves and saves.
It is a mystery to us how you abolish the powers of this world,
but we trust your work and long to live in the kingdom you are revealing
even now. Amen.

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*HYMN #248 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

- Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.*
- Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.*
- Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

*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 have given us so many witnesses, living God,
and we are grateful for all who have shared your good news with us.**

**The circle has widened more and more,
until it includes even us.**

**We confess that sometimes we have left people out,
choosing to forget their part and focusing instead on the ones we easily understand
and agree with.**

We confess, too, that it can be hard to trust the witness of others.

**We long for our own firsthand experience so we can know for sure,
and until then we try to make everything fit our own understanding.**

**Forgive us when we have done mental gymnastics
to explain away your mystery.**

**Forgive us when we have spiritualized everything
to avoid the tangible implications of your life, death, and resurrection.**

**Forgive us for focusing only on this life or the next
despite your kingdom that spans all of life and invites us in even now.**

**Give us faith to trust that the first fruit is the promise of more,
that Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that life everlasting is on the way,
that the truth we have heard from your people does indeed point to new life to come.**

**We ask for this imagination and courage
in the name of the One who has overcome the power of death forevermore,
Jesus the Christ.**

~©Teri Peterson for BibleWorm, adapted

Time of silent prayer

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Amen.

While it is true that we have sinned,

it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.

To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

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 & REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-58 (NRSVUE) – The Resurrection of Christ

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

...

Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

HYMN #734 Hope of the World (sung to #537 FEASTDAY)

- 1. Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, they people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.*
- 2. Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let they Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.*

3. *Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.*
4. *Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and deep despair, from sin and guilt:
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.*
5. *Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain:
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!*

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, each and every day.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #157 I Danced in the Morning

REFRAIN: Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,

and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

1. *I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth. REFRAIN*

*REFRAIN: Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

2. *I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. REFRAIN*
3. *I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. REFRAIN*
4. *I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. REFRAIN*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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

Pat Hogan, Accompanist
Gerald Gerber and Scott Larson, AV
Larry Petrick, Liturgist
Pat Hogan, 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