

Sunday Worship - September 8, 2024
Narrative Lectionary Year 3
Promises, Promises



Alise Storsul on Unplash

Week 1: Creation and the Fall
Genesis 2 & 3

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: Handmade, unique

ALL: Fearfully and wonderfully made

Leader: Created to tend God's garden

**ALL: Beauty and delight and purpose
mingled with dust and breath and love**

Leader: We are God's own handiwork

ALL: and we bring our praise

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*SONG OF PRAISE *All Creatures (Sing the Harmony)*

Shane & Shane

1.All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Sing praises, sing praises

Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
Sing praises, sing praises
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2.Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Yes clouds that sail in Heaven along
Sing praises, sing praises
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice

Ye lights of evening, find a voice
Sing praises, sing praises
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3.Let all things their creator bless
and worship him in humbleness
O praise him, hallelujah
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son!
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise him, O praise him
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: God who makes beautiful things,
getting your hands dirty, looking into the eyes of your creatures,
so close we share the same breath,
move us first to gratitude for this precious gift of life,
and then move us to action,
tending your gorgeous garden to bear fruit for your kingdom. Amen.

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*TIME OF CONFESSION ©Rev. Teri Peterson for BibleWorm

Leader: With the promise of God's fathomless grace, let us confess together how we have lost our way, or turned away:

Your creation is good, O God –
a delight, a joy.

We confess that we don't always believe you when you say so,
and instead we use your creation for our own ends,
forgetting it is more than just a tool to serve us,
forgetting we are made to tend and serve creation too.

ALL: Forgive us, Creator God.

Your breath fills us and brings us to life, O God.

We confess that isn't always enough for us,
and so we use your breath for our own ends,
speaking words that manipulate, confuse, and sow division.

ALL: Forgive us, Breath of Life.

You offer yourself to us, O God.

We confess that some part of us wants both more and less,
and so we talk about you rather than to you,
hiding from full relationship,
and behind interpretations that serve our own ends,
refusing to take responsibility for the pain we perpetuate.

ALL: Forgive us, Living Word.

~silence~

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Amen.

Friends, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

*RESPONSE

Beautiful Things

Gungor

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. All this pain | <i>You make beautiful things</i> |
| I wonder if I'll ever find my way | <i>You make beautiful things out of the dust</i> |
| I wonder if my life could really change | <i>You make beautiful things</i> |
| At all | <i>You make beautiful things out of us</i> |
| 2. All this earth | 3. All around |
| Could all that is lost ever be found | Hope is springing up from this old ground |
| Could a garden come up from this ground | Out of chaos life is being found |
| At all | In You |

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

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.

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17 3:1-8 (Common English Bible) - The Old Life and the New

Reader 1: On the day the Lord God made earth and sky—⁵ before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land,⁶ though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—⁷ the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life.⁸ The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed.⁹ In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

...

Reader 2: The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it.¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees;¹⁷ but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!"

...

Reader 1: The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

² The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees³ but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

Reader 2: ⁴ The snake said to the woman, "You won't die!⁵ God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

⁸ During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden's trees.

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

HYMN #23 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets (sung to #24 HOLY MANNA)

*1: God, you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We created in your image, would a true
reflection be
of your justice, grace, and mercy
and the truth that makes us free.*

*2: You have called us to be faithful
in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
joined in one community.*

*When we blur your gracious image,
focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
We move onward toward your goal.*

*3: God, your word is still creating,
calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

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: God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give!

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

*Because so many give gifts online, the offering is in many ways symbolic.
We are grateful for all the ways you support our mission and ministry! Thank you!*

*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 #345 In an Age of Twisted Values

- 1. In an age of twisted values we have lost the truth we need.
In sophisticated language we have justified our greed.
By our struggle for possessions we have robbed the poor and weak.
Hear our cry and heal our nation; your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.*
- 2. We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear.
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentments dear.
For communities divided by the walls of class and race,
hear our cry and heal our nation; show us, Lord, your love and grace.*
- 3. When our families are broken, when our homes are full of strife,
when our children are bewildered, when they lose their way in life,
when we fail to give the aged all the care we know they need,
hear our cry and heal our nation; help us show more love, we plead.*
- 4. We who hear your word so often choose so rarely to obey.
Turn us from our willful wandering; give us truth to light our way.
In the power of your Spirit come to cleanse us, make us new;
hear our cry and heal our nation till our nation honors you.*

*BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

Pat Hogan, Piano

Stacey Griffin, Guitar

Gerald Gerber and Scott Larson, AV

Craig Engel, Liturgist

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Position Vacant, Music Director

Stephanie Turner, Office Manager *Starts September 10!*

Jonathan Walsh, Treasurer

Trent Bowman, Custodian