

Sunday Worship - June 29, 2025

Summer Worship Series

The Bible & Economic Justice



**Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-37
Economics & Holiness**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When everything is going well, and life is good,

All: You are the Lord our God.

Leader: When we are in need of help, uncertain how to carry on,

All: You are the Lord our God.

Leader: When we recognize our place in a just and equitable system,

All: You are the Lord our God.

Leader: When we recognize our failure to create the world you designed,

All: You are the Lord our God.

Leader: When we think we got away with something,

All: You are the Lord our God.

Leader: When we live, accountable to one another for following your call,

All: You are the Lord our God, and we are your people.

~© Teri Peterson

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

Holy God, you call us to leave some space

for you to work

for our neighbors to get enough

for creation to heal.

You command us to make room, not just at the edges

but in the everyday in the midst of community

in the heart of our life and work.

You show us what a fair and just world looks like,

and it demands we pay attention,

demands we abandon apathy and put ourselves on the line,

demands we trust you even when it is not to our advantage.

Make us holy like you, O God,

set apart for your more excellent way. Amen.

~© Teri Peterson

*SONG Come As You Are Glover/Crowder/Maher CCLI Song#7017790

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been

Come broken hearted let rescue begin

Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal :|

REFRAIN

So lay down your burdens
Lay down your shame
All who are broken
Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt
Lay down your heart
Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure :|

REFRAIN

***PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

Leader: Who can understand the heart? Only God.

Let us confess the ways we have turned from the One who knows us and saves us.

All: You are gracious and generous, holy God.

**You made us in your image, and gave us community
to live fully in your interconnected likeness.**

**Yet we confess that we have not followed your word,
though we have talked about it.**

**We admit that we have glossed over the parts that hit too close to home,
or that meddle in our affairs.**

**We turn past the pages where you call us
to care more for each other than for our benefit or profit.**

**We intellectualize the commandments that infringe on our "rights"
and we ignore anything that demands we curb our consumption.**

**You are God, and you know the truth,
so we pray you would give us honest eyes and contrite hearts,
to name and repent of the ways we have taken what does not belong to us,
the ways we have profited from harm done to our neighbors,
the ways we have done as much as we could get away with.**

**Forgive us for profaning your holy name by bearing it on our lips
without living out your will in our actions.**

Lead us into new life, always for your glory rather than our own. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God looks on us with compassion, and God's grace
does not abide by the boundaries and barriers of the human imagination.
So hear and live this good news:
anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, with the opportunity and the power
to live a new life in God's kingdom today
ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE Come As You Are (Refrain) Crowder

So lay down your burdens, Lay down your shame
All who are broken, Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, You're not too far
So lay down your hurt, Lay down your heart
Come as you are

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-37 (Common English Bible) - Instructions for Holiness

Reader 1: ⁹ When you harvest your land's produce, you must not harvest all the way to the edge of your field; and don't gather up every remaining bit of your harvest. ¹⁰ Also do not pick your vineyard clean or gather up all the grapes that have fallen there. Leave these items for the poor and the immigrant; I am the LORD your God.

Reader 2: ¹¹ You must not steal nor deceive nor lie to each other. ¹² You must not swear falsely by my name, desecrating your God's name in doing so; I am the LORD. ¹³ You must not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not withhold a hired laborer's pay overnight. ¹⁴ You must not insult a deaf person or put some obstacle in front of a blind person that would cause them to trip. Instead, fear your God; I am the LORD.

Reader 1: ¹⁵ You must not act unjustly in a legal case. Do not show favoritism to the poor or deference to the great; you must judge your fellow Israelites fairly.

¹⁶ Do not go around slandering your people. Do not stand by while your neighbor's blood is shed; I am the LORD. ¹⁷ You must not hate your fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your fellow Israelite strongly, so you don't become responsible for his sin. ¹⁸ You must not take revenge nor hold a grudge against any of your people; instead, you must love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Reader 2: ³³ When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. ³⁴ Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. ³⁵ You must not act unjustly in a legal case involving measures of length, weight, or volume. ³⁶ You must have accurate scales and accurate weights, an accurate ephah and an accurate hin. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ³⁷ You must keep all my rules and all my regulations, and do them; I am the Lord.

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

SONG *The Magic Penny* Malvina Reynolds

Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny, Hold it tight and you won't have any.

Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many,

they'll roll all over the floor, for

Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

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: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God. We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

SPECIAL MUSIC We Shall Be Free Garth Brooks
Elizabeth Riechers, vocals

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Lord God, you have given us much from the stores of your love.

Your pockets are deep and you keep giving;

time after time we experience your gracious hand

as it provides us with blessing after blessing.

In comparison we have little to give—or so we think.

When we make our offering,

we do so recognizing the immense cost

of love revealed by the cross and empty tomb,

and we come with thankfulness for your gift to us.

May we be extravagantly generous in the commitments we make,

as we live our lives faithfully as your servants in the world. Amen.

*SONG God of Justice Tim Hughes CCLI Song #4447128

Verse 1

God of Justice Saviour to all

Came to rescue the weak and the poor

Chose to serve and not be served

Jesus You have called us

Freely we've received

Now freely we will give

Chorus

We must go

Live to feed the hungry

Stand beside the broken

We must go

Stepping forward

Keep us from just singing

Move us into action

We must go

Verse 2

To act justly every day
Loving mercy in every way
Walking humbly before You God
You have shown us what You require
Freely we've received
Now freely we will give

Fill us up and send us out
Fill us up and send us out
Fill us up and send us out Lord
(REPEAT)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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

Stacey Griffin, Guitar, Piano and Vocals
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV
Pendergrass family, Coffee Hour Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor
Cristina Galán, Office Manager
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer
Jeff Bray, Custodian
Nico Seda, Nursery