

Sunday Worship - July 6, 2025

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



Summer Worship Series

The Bible & Economic Justice

Micah 6:6-15, 7:1-7 What Does the Lord Require of You?

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: Look to the Lord whose love is steadfast.

All: We can count on God to hear us.

Leader: In this world where we aren't sure who to trust,

All: God is trustworthy and true.

Leader: In this time when the way things have always been seems to be unraveling,

All: God's word remains, and we have heard it.

Leader: In this life where everything feels complicated,

All: God has told us what is good.

Let us do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, together.

(© Teri Peterson)

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

We pause today, O God,

breathing in your Spirit of loving connection,

waiting for your voice to speak more clearly.

We pause in the midst of everything,

waiting for you to do something,

breathing in your Spirit of justice.

You seek partners in your way,

so we pray that you would reveal what is ours to do,

and gift us with what we need

to live faithfully in every single thing we do.

Amen. (© Teri Peterson)

***SONG** *Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly* Tomlin/Ingram/Barrett

CCLI Song #7168697

Verse 1

It all comes down to this
What you require of me
Love my neighbor as myself
And You above all things

Chorus

Act justly love mercy walk humbly
With You God
In all things in all ways walk humbly
With You God

Verse 2

It all comes down to this
To be Your hands and feet
Good news to all the world
The truth will set us free

Bridge

It's beauty for ashes
It's mourning to dancing
It's closer and closer
The Kingdom of heaven

Verse 3

Years from now we'll see
The fruit our hands have sown
Faith just like a seed
The only way it grows

***PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION** (© Teri Peterson)

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 have told us before, O God —

your word is full of stories and instruction.

**We confess that we often come to you looking for a few easy steps
we can complete today that will bring us happiness, forgiveness, peace.**

We want it to be simple, just say the right words
or make the right offering, and everything will be okay.
Instead you remind us of your way of life, which we admit is difficult.
We see others playing a game and getting away with it,
and we are tempted to do the same.
Even when we recognise the consequences of breaking faith
with you and each other, still we try to do what used to work for some,
hoping it might bring us just enough peace and prosperity to get ahead,
regardless of the cost.
God, forgive our greed.
Forgive our hoarding.
Forgive our use and abuse of resources.
Forgive us for participating in tearing society apart at the seams,
thinking only of our own security.
Remove from us the desires that lead to dishonesty,
and help us do our part to make your kingdom visible on earth.
Amen.

Time of Silence

*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. (© Teri Peterson)

*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 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.

Micah 6:6-15 (CEB) -

Reader 1: With what should I approach the Lord
and bow down before God on high?

Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings,
with year-old calves?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with many torrents of oil?

Should I give my oldest child for my crime;
the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?

8 He has told you, human one, what is good and
what the Lord requires from you:
to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

9 The voice of the Lord calls out to the city;
wisdom appears when one fears your name.
Hear, tribe, and who appointed her!

10 Are the treasures of wickedness still in the house of wickedness,
while the shorted basket is denounced?

11 Can I approve wicked scales and a bag of false weights

12 in a city whose wealthy are full of violence
and whose inhabitants speak falsehood
with lying tongues in their mouths?

13 So I have made you sick by striking you!
I have struck you because of your sins.

14 You devour, but you aren't satisfied;
a gnawing emptiness is within you.

You put something aside,
but you don't keep it safe.
That which you do try to keep safe,
I will give to the sword.

15 You sow, but you don't gather.

You tread down olives, but you don't anoint with oil;
you tread grapes, but don't drink wine.

Micah 7:1-7 (CEB)

Reader 2: I'm doomed!

I've become like one who,
even after the summer fruit has been gathered,
after the ripened fruits have been collected,
has no cluster of grapes to eat,
no ripe fig that I might desire.

2 Faithful ones have perished from the land;
there is no righteous one among humanity.
All of them lie in wait for bloodshed;
they hunt each other with nets.

3 Their hands are skilled at doing evil.
Official and judge alike ask for a bribe;
the powerful speak however they like;
this is how they conspire.

4 The good among them are like a briar;
those who do the right thing are like a thorny thicket.
(A day for your lookouts!
Your punishment has arrived.
The confusion of the wicked is nearby.)

5 Don't rely on a friend;
put no trust in a companion;
guard the doors of your mouth from she who lies in your embrace.

6 Son disrespects father;
a daughter rises up against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
the enemies of a man are those of his own household.

7 But me! I will keep watch for the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

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

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Leader: Everything we have is a gift from God, and our offerings are a way of acknowledging God as the giver. Whatever and whenever we give is a vital part of our response to God and helps us connect our love for God with our life of discipleship. Let us pray:

**ALL: May we commit ourselves, Lord God, once again looking ahead to this week:
to find ways to serve, to find ways to give,
to find ways to use our abilities in bringing about change for justice and peace,
to find ways to use our whole selves in bringing about your Kingdom. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *(from A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation)*

INVITATION

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people...

...gathered round the table of Matthew,
the table of Zacchaeus,
the table of Simon,
the table of Peter,
the table of Martha and Mary,
the tables of Joanna and Susannah...

...gathered round a table where he could see people face to face,
listen to their stories, share their laughter.

And here, we are gathered round a table
Because this is where Jesus has promised to be
for those who want to meet him.

So accept his invitation and feel his welcome at this table.
Jesus Christ, who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life,
invites you to be his guests.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for the life you lived among us,
speaking our language, learning our ways,
sitting at our tables, listening to our complaints
and never giving up on us.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for never compromising the truth by which you lived,
for refusing to be swayed by popular opinion,
for identifying the seductions of power,
for confronting institutionalized prejudice
and never selling your soul.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for loving the unlovable, forgiving the unforgivable,
recognizing the gold beneath the dross,
the potential beneath the pain,
and never taking an easier path.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise,
for in the face of our small-mindedness
you, Jesus, have shown us God and God's kingdom
in fascinating beauty and converting power.

So we gladly celebrate your life,
as in concert with the church in heaven and earth
we join the song of your unending praise:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Oh, Holy Jesus, it is not by virtue that we are here,
but by your gracious invitation.
It is not to continue an ancient tradition
but to be nourished by our living Lord.

God our Maker,
as you gave your people water from a rock in the desert
and fed them with bread in the wilderness,
let your Holy Spirit fill this bread and this cup
with the fullness of Jesus
so that we, in stretching out our hands,
receive, through faith, food for our souls.
In the intimacy of this sacrament,
as heaven and earth become one,
enable us to know you more deeply, and resolve to love, honor and serve you more
faithfully in this world, until your kingdom comes.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said,
“This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said,
“This is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

All you who hunger and thirst
for a better life,
a deeper faith,
a better world,
here is the bread of life: feed on it with gratitude;
here is the cup of salvation: drink from it and believe.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Gluten, allergen free cracker and individual cups of juice are available

Hymn #507 Come to the Table of Grace (verses 1-5, repeated as needed)

1. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.
2. Come to the table of **peace**...
3. Come to the table of **love**...
4. Come to the table of **hope**...
5. Come to the table of **joy**...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go now, you have been fed,
you have shared the living bread;
you have been grafted to the vine,
you have tasted heaven's new wine.
Go now, you have been blessed.
Jesus calls you each his guest.
God knows your name and says you're wanted
and in your lives God's seed is planted.
Go now, and go in Christ's own peace and in your going do not cease
to love yourself—you are God's treasure,
and love the world—it is God's pleasure,
and love the Lord in greatest measure. 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)

***POSTLUDE**

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

Pat Hogan, Music

Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Cristina Galán, Office Manager

Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer

Jeff Bray, Custodian

Nico Seda, Nursery