

Sunday Worship - August 10, 2025

Sunday Worship



I Peter 3:13-22
What about...suffering?

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 Allemande Henry Purcell
 Menuett Joseph Haydn
 Sadie and Pat Hogan, flute duet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather us in, O Lord, and purify our hearts.

ALL: For we have come through times of testing and trouble.

Leader: Gather us in, O Lord, and make us one people.

ALL: For we have strayed and are estranged from ones we love.

Leader: Gather us in, O Lord, and make us your disciples.

**ALL: Teach us your will and your ways that we may be a living
example of your love.**

*HYMN #24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

1. God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.
2. Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings row on row.
Yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.
3. We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

4. As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together...

Loving God, we come to you today just as we are, some of us full of energy, some of us barely holding on. We bring our hopes, our doubts, our distractions, and we lay them before you. We admit, Lord, that sometimes we don't know how to pray. We can't find the words. We think we're too busy to make time. And sometimes, we just don't know what to say. But you know us and you hear even our deepest sighs. And when we can't pray, your Spirit prays for us with groans deeper than language. We thank you for your peace and presence, but we also confess that we have fallen short. We confess the times we've tried to do life on our own. We confess the silence between us and you. Thank you for your grace that meets us here. As we worship today. Open our hearts, tune our ears to your voice, and remind us that you are always with us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*RESPONSE #596 You Are Holy

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

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.

I Peter 3:13-22 (CEB)

¹³Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? ¹⁴But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. ¹⁵Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. ¹⁶Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. ¹⁷It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil.

¹⁸Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. ¹⁹And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. ²⁰In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. ²¹Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

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. Nancy J. Redman

HYMN #372 O, for a World

*1. O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.*

*2. O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.*

*3. We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.*

*4. The poor are rich; the weak are strong;
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.*

*5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.*

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Sadie and Pat Hogan, flute duet

Ludwig van Beethoven

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer our gifts to you. O God, in gratitude for the many blessings we receive from your gracious hand. We pray that you will use these gifts of our life and labor to support the ministry and mission of this congregation. Help us be attentive to the needs around us and to reach out with love to those in need. Amen.

*HYMN #547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1. *Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*
2. *Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*
3. *Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

* BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

Rev. Nancy J. Redman, Guest Pastor
Pat Hogan, Piano
Nona Hutchinson, Liturgist
Gerald Gerber, AV
Rita Swales, Coffee Hour Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

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