

**Sunday Worship - May 31, 2026**

**The Great Church Chill Out - Week 1  
SETTLE DOWN**



Illustrations by Clement Hurd, from *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown (1942)

*Where could I go to get away from your spirit?  
Where could I go to escape your presence?  
Psalm 139:7 (CEB)*

**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

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Where can I go to run from the love you show?

**All: Nowhere**

Leader: Where can I flee the grace you've given me?

**All: Nowhere**

Leader: I can look high and low

**All: Won't find it**

Leader: I can look every place I know

**All: Still won't find it**

Leader: Everywhere I go, God is right there, too

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*SONG      Everywhere I Go

Natalie Sleeth

1. Everywhere I go the Lord is near me.  
If I call upon him, he will hear me.  
Never will I fear, for the Lord is near, everywhere I go.
2. In the dark of night should things alarm me,  
ever in God's sight, no ill may harm me.  
I will be of cheer, for the Lord is near, everywhere I go.  
  
*Bridge:* The Lord is with me day by day,  
he will be my strength and stay;  
from this path I will not stray but follow in the way.
3. In the coming days of joy or sadness,  
I will praise God's name with songs of gladness.  
For to me it's clear that the Lord is near, everywhere I go.

4. Everywhere I go the Lord is near me.  
If I call upon him, he will hear me.  
Never will I fear, for the Lord is near, everywhere I go.

**\*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

L: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Merciful God, forgive us.**

**In spite of your persistent promises  
that you are with us, ALWAYS,  
we forget.**

**Instead of trusting your presence,  
we wonder where you are.**

**Or we think there is someplace we can go where you aren't.**

**We even believe there is something we could do  
that would cause you to stop loving us.**

**Call us back, O God.**

**Gather us in and turn us around  
to walk in your way, loving God.**

**Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, believe this good news:

**ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE #48 Rain Down**

Rain down, rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**DISCOVERY TIME**

## Song - Wherever I May Wander

1. Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.  
God made the great high mountains, And made the wide blue sea;  
God made the sky where airplanes fly; God made the world, and me.
2. Throughout the whole creation I see God's loving care  
For everyone in every land, God's children everywhere.  
Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.

## SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

**People: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

## Psalm 139 (Common English Bible) - The Inescapable God

**Liturgist:** LORD, you have examined me.

You know me.

**All:** <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

**Liturgist:** <sup>3</sup>You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

**All:** <sup>4</sup>There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,

that you don't already know completely.

**Liturgist:** <sup>5</sup>You surround me—front and back.

You put your hand on me.

**All:** <sup>6</sup>That kind of knowledge is too much for me;

it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

**Liturgist:** <sup>7</sup>Where could I go to get away from your spirit?

Where could I go to escape your presence?

**All:** <sup>8</sup>If I went up to heaven, you would be there.

If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!

**Liturgist:** <sup>9</sup>If I could fly on the wings of dawn,

stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—

**All:** <sup>10</sup>even there your hand would guide me;

even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

**Liturgist:** <sup>11</sup> If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;  
the light will become night around me,"

**All:** <sup>12</sup> even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!  
Nighttime would shine bright as day,  
because darkness is the same as light to you!

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. Lori Wunder

## HYMN #834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:

### REFRAIN:

Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall:

### REFRAIN

## 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 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 together:

**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**

### \*HYMN #80 You Shall Go Out with Joy

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
There'll be shouts of joy,  
and all trees of the field will clap,  
will clap their hands.  
And all of the trees of the field  
will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

*All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation.*

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

Nona Hutchinson, Liturgist  
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV Crew  
Rozanne Petrick, Coffee Hour

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor  
Cristina Galán, Office Manager  
Rebecca Nickles, Music Director  
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer  
María Seda, Nursery  
Maryjayne Gerber, Custodian