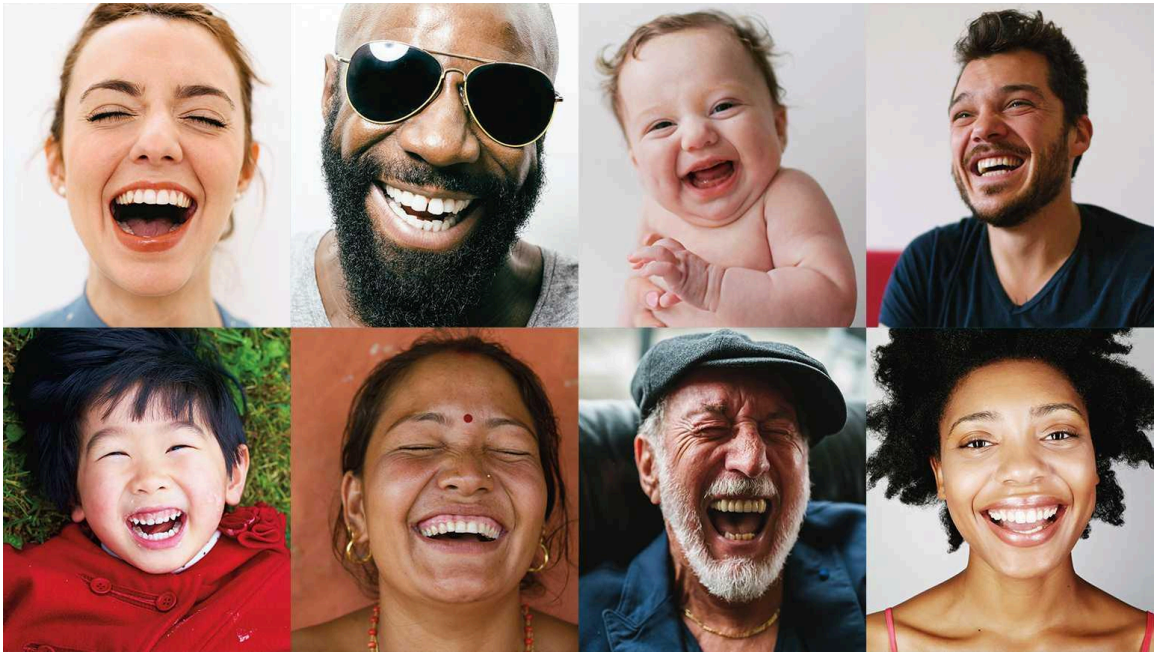


**Sunday Worship - June 7, 2026
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**



**The Great Church Chill Out - Week 2
LAUGH OUT LOUD**

Texts: Psalm 126:1-3, Proverbs 17:22

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: We gather as people who know what it is

All: to have days, weeks, and even years when nothing is going right.

Leader: We gather as people who know what it is to be discouraged.

All: We gather as people who know how hard it can be to hope.

Leader: But we also gather as people who believe in a God
more powerful than we can imagine.

All: We gather as people of Jesus Christ—the one the tomb could not hold.

Leader: We gather as people of the Holy Spirit who swoops in and upends our lives

All: with joy and newness at the most unexpected times.

Leader: We gather to lift one another up

All: To encourage each other along the way

Leader: To remind one another just Whose we are.

All: We gather to worship God.

*HYMN #388 Come All You People

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;

come all you people, come and praise your Maker;

come all you people, come and praise your Maker;

come now and worship the Lord.

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Before we can truly laugh,
we must first let go of what weighs us down.

Before joy can rise in us, grace must clear some space.

So let's be honest—not because God doesn't know,
but because we forget that mercy is already leaning in,
smiling, waiting for us to fall into arms wide with forgiveness.

Let us pray together:

ALL: Gracious and giggling God,
we confess that sometimes we take ourselves too seriously.
We walk through life stiff with worry,
grim with guilt, and frowning with fear.
We forget that you created laughter,
and that joy is a fruit of your Spirit.
Forgive us for putting a lid on your joy,
for muting your music,
and for walking around like the resurrection never happened.
Tickle our hearts with your grace,
nudge us with your mercy,
and teach us to live with eyes wide open for holy hilarity.
In the name of the Risen One who laughed in the face of death, we pray
Amen. (written by Thom Schuman)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Here's the good news:
God doesn't hold a grudge—God holds us.
Christ didn't come to scold us—he came to save us,
to shake us out of our sorrow,
and to set loose joy in our hearts like confetti in the wind.
So laugh, dance, rejoice—

ALL: for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

(written by Thom Schuman)

*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: Turn to one another with a smile, a chuckle, or even a holy high-five,
and share this good news: "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).
Peace be with you!

P: And also with you.

(written by Thom Schuman)

DISCOVERY TIME

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 126:1-3 (Common English Bible)

Reader 2: When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better,
it was like we had been dreaming.

All: ²Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.

It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them!"

Reader 2: ³Yes, the LORD has done great things for us,
and we are overjoyed.

Proverbs 17:22 (Common English Bible)

Reader 1: A joyful heart helps healing,
but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

Psalm 126:1-6 (The Message)

Reader 1: ¹⁻³It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when GOD returned Zion's exiles.

We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.

We were the talk of the nations—
"GOD was wonderful to them!"

GOD *was* wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.

Reader 2: ⁴⁻⁶And now, GOD, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives
So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout "Yes!" at the harvest,
So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

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.

SONG This Joy that I Have (traditional hymn)

This joy that I have the world didn't give it to me
This joy that I have the world didn't give it to me
This joy that I have the world didn't give it to me
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away

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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(written by Thom Schuman)

INVITATION

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the God of joy!
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and hilarious God,
how could we keep from laughing?
You flung stars into the sky like confetti,
tickled the bellies of whales,
and taught ostriches to run like they stole something.
You formed us in your image—
not with straight lines and stiff backs,
but with dancing knees and twinkling eyes.
Even when we turned from you,
you came after us—not with wagging fingers,
but with wide arms, ready to welcome us home.

Prophets told your jokes before they made sense—
valleys of dry bones rattling to their feet,
lions turned into sleepy kittens,
and a highway through the sea.

And so, with all who giggle in glory,
and all who still belly-laugh here on earth,
we sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and punchlines,
Heaven and earth are full of your joy.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to surprise us with grace.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy is your Son, Jesus Christ—
resurrected prankster of paradise,
who turned water into wine and death into life,
who slipped out of the tomb
before the stone even hit the ground.
He walked through locked doors,
broke bread with the bewildered,
and whispered peace into every frightened heart.
On the night before the punchline,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:
"Take, eat—this is my body, broken for you."
Then he lifted the cup,
grinning through the shadows, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you. This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."
"Do this in remembrance of me."

And so, we remember the story that still stuns us:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again—
probably when we least expect it.**

Pour out your Spirit, O God,
on us gathered here and on these gifts—
not just so we may remember,
but so we might be re-membered:
reassembled, re-animated, and re-sparked
as the body of Christ in the world.

Make us gigglers of grace, whisperers of peace,
and holy fools for the sake of your kingdom.
All glory and laughter be yours,
God of holy joy, now and forever.
Amen.

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**...

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of 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:

Kristy Parker, Liturgist
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV Crew
Pat Hogan, 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