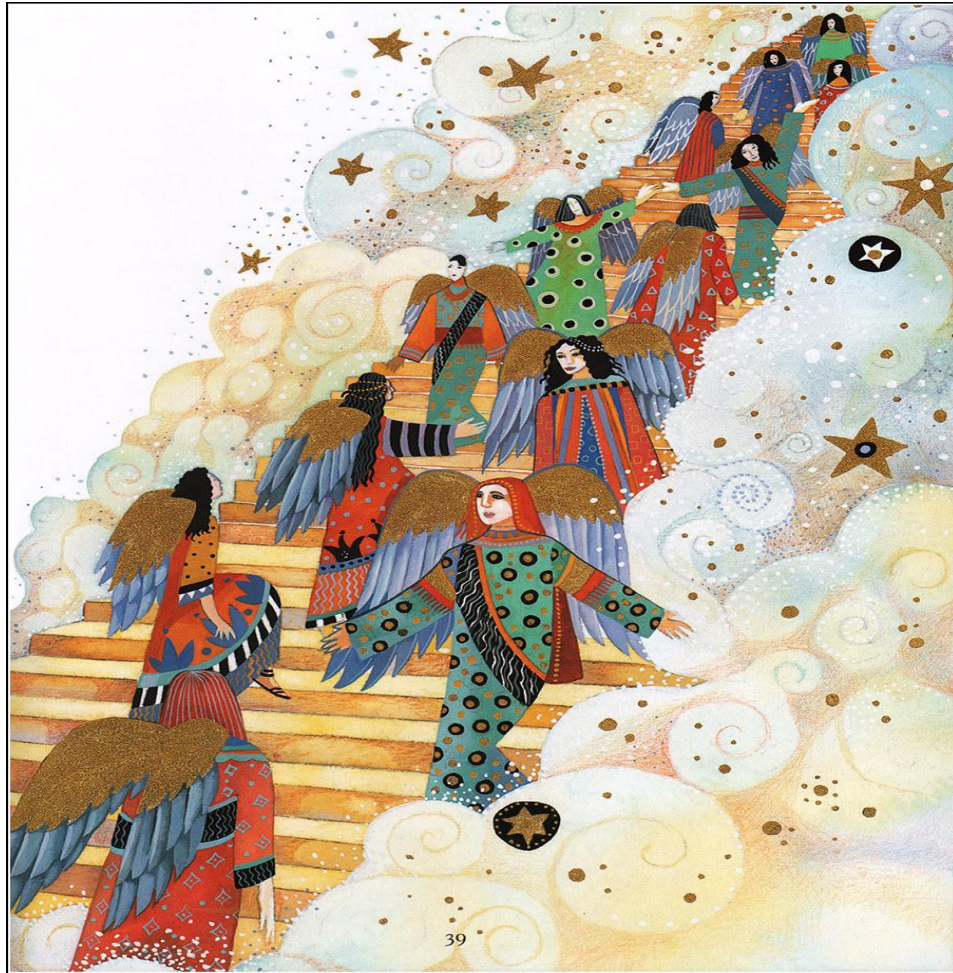


Sunday Worship - July 19, 2026

Noisy Offering



The Lion Illustrated Bible for Children (2005) Christina Balit, illustrator

Waking up to God's Presence

Genesis 28:10-17

Ephesians 3:14-21

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: O God, we come to worship this day,
realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here.

**People: We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts,
for you are there.**

Leader: We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you;

People: our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you;

Leader: our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you;

People: our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.

**ALL: Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

~by Harry Yoder, 117 in Words for Worship 1, Arlene M. Mark, editor

*HYMN #411 God Is Here Today / *Dios está aquí*

God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.
(sing three times)

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: God offers love from the beginning, simply because we are.

Let us make our confession to this God of Grace together:

**ALL: Into our bottomless anxiety,
into our fearful bewilderment,**

our fretful minds and aching hearts,
you come to rebuild and repair and restore.
You walk right into our hand-wringing
and with calming serenity,
you breathe peace.
Renewing God,
you know we are spiritually and emotionally dehydrated.
Pour into us your Holy Spirit that refreshes.
Soak your song of hope into our dust-dry lives,
and fill us with the endless love of Jesus Christ
by loving you and by loving and serving others.

Time of Silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Beloved people of God:
In Christ, we are a new creation.
Believe this good news and place your trust in God alone.
ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE #698 Take, O Take Me as I Am**

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.
Repeat twice

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you!
P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME Noisy Offering for Escucha Mi Voz, Iowa City.

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.

Genesis 28:10-17 (Common English Bible) - Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. ¹² He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ Suddenly the Lord was standing on it and saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. ¹⁵ I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it. ¹⁷ He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It's none other than God's house and the entrance to heaven.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSVUE) - Paul's Prayer for the Readers

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

HYMN #837 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1: What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2: O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim
way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to
day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

3: What have I to dread, what have I to
fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so
near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTORAL 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 #765 May the God of Hope

Song of Hope / Canto de Esperanza

May the God of hope go with us, everyday,
filling all our lives with love, and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*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
Beth Simon, 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