

Sunday Worship - August 2, 2026

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

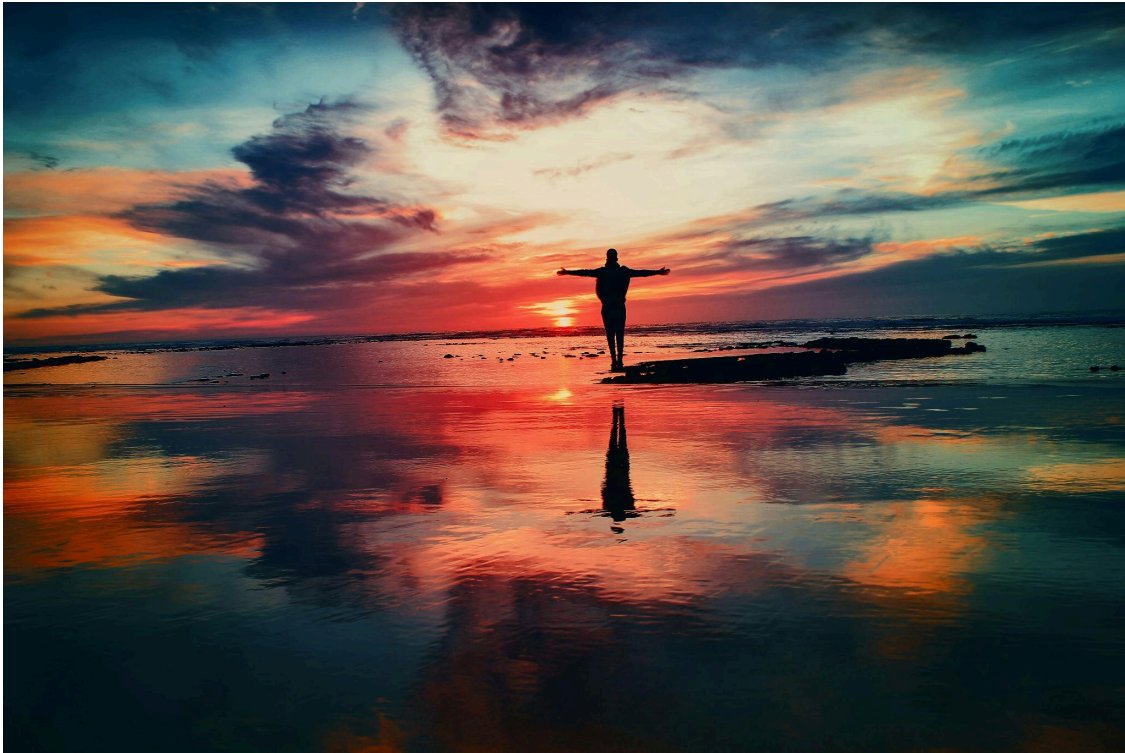


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Inter-Species Communication & Prayer as a Way of Being in the World

Job 12:7-10

Mark 3:31-35

Philippians 4:5-7

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

Reader 1: Breath by breath - it was so.

Word by word - it was so.

Reader 2: Piece by piece - it was so.

Day by day - it was so.

All: Blessing by blessing - it was so.

Reader 1 & 2: And God saw that it was good.

All: God saw that it was very good.

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*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

It's a miracle, O God,

that there is a place we can live,

a space we can breathe in the midst of the chaos.

As we breathe together here today,

as we con-spire with you here today,

in-spire our imagination

that we may join you in speaking a new world into being.

Amen.

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*HYMN #819 Be Still, My Soul

1. Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul! your God does undertake
To guide the future as he has the past;
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

3. Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

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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.
Creator God, you call for light, and light shines.
You form all that is straight from your imagination, into reality.
You draw out the creative powers of the world you have made,
so the earth and all that lives in it continues the cycle of your blessing
creating and re-creating, generation to generation.

**All: We confess that we have mis-used the powers you gave us,
misrepresented your image in the world,
disrupted your cycle of blessing.
We have tried to harness the earth's creativity for our own ends.
We have hoarded things meant to be shared.
We have acted like we are in charge here.**

And now the habitable space you created shrinks,
the air and water hurt rather than feed,
the seasons shift and the whole system is off-kilter.
Forgive us for dominating instead of co-existing.
Forgive us for abusing instead of nurturing.
Forgive us for taking your place instead of living faithfully in the place you made for us.
Restore the order of your creation, O God,
and restore us within it,
to live reflecting your image as you intend.
We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ,
the Word through whom all is made.
Amen.

Time of Silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, hear this good news:
You — we — are created creatures within God's good creation.
It is not ours to command and control. And so it is with grace.
From the very beginning, the world was built upon grace,
and God's endless creative power continues to build on grace — even for each one of us.
Know that you are forgiven, and live with joy as part of God's creation
which, behold: is very good.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

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***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.

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.

Job 12:7-10 (NIV)

⁷“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;

⁸or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.

⁹Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?

¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

Mark 3:31-35 (NIV)

³¹ Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

³³ “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Philippians 4:5-7

⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION

Dr Rev Catherine Quehl- Engel

HYMN #215 What Wondrous Love Is This (verses 1, 3, 4)

1. *What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*
3. *To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!*
4. *And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.*

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

SPECIAL MUSIC by Sadie Hogan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN #43 On Eagle's Wings

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*
3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain*
4. For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

Dr Rev Catherine Quehl- Engel, Guest Preacher
Larry Petrick, Liturgist
Pat Hogan Music & Coffee Hour Host
Jen Lengwin, Discovery Time
Sadie Hogan, Special Music
Elizabeth Riechers, Communion Elements
Kristy Parker, minister of the Word and Sacrament
Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV
Erin Lane and Kate Klinkhammer Song Leaders

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor
Cristina Galán, Office Manager
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer
Maryjayne, Custodian
Maria Seda, Nursery