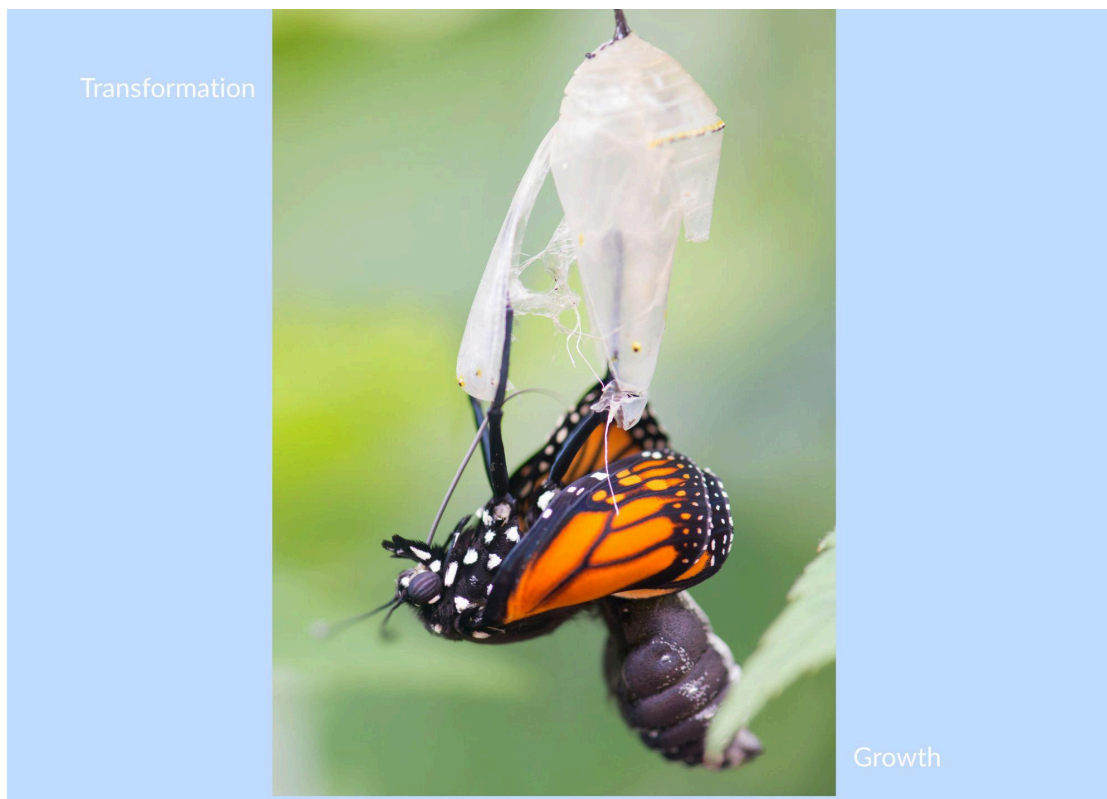


Sunday Worship - August 9, 2026

August Birthday Blessings



The Great Undoing & Living Into Resurrection

Revelation 21:1-6

Matthew 5:1-16

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (© Teri Peterson)

Leader: Rejoice in what God has done!

All: Already, God's light shines in the shadows.

Leader: Look — abundant life is planted here!

All: We can't see it all yet, but we keep looking.

Leader: Peace has been born into the world!

All: And we will make it known.

*OPENING PRAYER (© Teri Peterson)

Leader: You, Lord, in your zeal
not only establish your kingdom,
you uphold it,
and from your righteousness and justice
grows your beloved community.
Shine on us with joy today,
that we may in turn be people
of peace and joy in this world. Amen.

*HYMN #401 Here in This Place

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness
vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who
yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: here is the place the new light is shining; Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Leader: With the promise of God's endless grace, let us confess together how we have lost our way, or turned away:

**All: Source of life and ground of being,
you promise and you provide.**

**You shine the light of peace
and we confess we shield our eyes,
uncertain we want to commit to the way you reveal before us.**

**You shine the light of freedom,
and we confess we turn away,
for we can't imagine any system but the one we've got.**

**You shine the light of joy,
and we confess we flinch and retreat,
unwilling to lay our burdens down, even in your care.**

Forgive us, loving God.

**Forgive us for not seeing your bright light as good news,
because it is sometimes challenging news for us and our way of life.**

**Forgive us and teach us to trust you enough
to walk with you through the shadowed valley and toward the life you promise,
though we cannot see it yet. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

(© Teri Peterson)

Time of Silence

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Whatever the reason you might imagine
God can't accept you, can't use you, can't love you,
God overrules every objection with the truth:
I have called you by name. I will be with you.
I will give you everything you need to fulfill my purpose for you.
God believes in you! So pause long enough to notice
the grace and forgiveness that are for you, today and every day.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen. (© Teri Peterson)

*RESPONSE #59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord (Refrain only)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

DISCOVERY TIME

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.

Revelation 21:1-6 A New Heaven and a New Earth (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."⁴ "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death"[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Matthew 5:1-16 Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount (NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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

Dr Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel

HYMN #314 Christ, Be Our Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. *REFRAIN*

REFRAIN: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *REFRAIN*
3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *REFRAIN*
4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *REFRAIN*
5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. *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

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.

OFFERTORY

*Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church
or given online at www.firstpresmv.com*

We are grateful for all the ways you support our mission and ministry! Thank you!

***HYMN #852 When the Lord Redeems the Very Least**

1. When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.

Refrain: We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice.

2. When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.

Refrain

3. When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.

Refrain

4. When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice.

Refrain

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ALL: Gift-giving God, day by day, hour by hour,
we bring you what we can offer:
our time and talents, our gifts and attention, our finances, our very selves.
We pray that what we offer with love and hope,
you will magnify and multiply for the work of your love in the world.
Amen.**

***HYMN #853 We Are Marching in the Light of God**

We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching; we are marching; we are marching in the light of God.
REPEAT FROM BEGINNING

AUGUST BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS & BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

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

Dr Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel Guest Preacher

Emily Fitzpatrick, Liturgist

Lena Nichols, Piano

Elizabeth Riechers, Discovery Time

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system

Rozanne Petrick, Coffee Hour Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Cristina Galán, Office Manager

Rebecca Nickles, Music Director

Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer

María Seda, Nursery