

**Sunday Worship - August 16, 2026**  
**Noisy Offering**



scene from *What Was I Scared Of?* By Dr. Seuss (1961)

***The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Week 1***  
**The Problem is *Them***

Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan

**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

L: It is a risk to come to worship today.

This is a place where believers worship what cannot be seen,  
choose to participate in a living mystery, and try

—with all of the Spirit's help—

to allow transformation within our lives, the church, and the world.

**P: This is a place where believers try**

**—with all of the Spirit's grace—**

**to risk letting go of familiar but stubborn ways**

**in order to believe, receive and love anew.**

**ALL: Let us worship this God of mystery and transformation  
together.**

*~Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brenneman, #14*

### \*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.

Dios está aquí;

tan cierto como el aire que respiro,

tan cierto como la mañana se levanta

tan cierto como que le canto y me puede oír.

### \*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Let us pray.

Because God is good, and has intended us to share that goodness, we open ourselves to  
nothing less than transformation as together we say:

**P: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

L: You are the Word behind all words, the calm at the core of the storm, the energy that  
sustains creation.

You are present in the pain behind the tears, the laughter in the eyes, the yearning in the  
heart. All these you share, yet your gift to us is much more.

P: So open us up, Lord, we whose lives are locked,  
whose thoughts are well rehearsed,  
whose prayer is predictable.  
Open us up to depths we have not explored,  
truths we have avoided,  
paths we have not followed,  
beauty we have yet to admire.  
And open us up to Jesus, in whom all things are held together  
for God and for our good. Amen.  
~ A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation, p. 27

*Time of Silence*

### \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Friends, believe this good news!  
God does not love us **if** we change; God loves us **so that** we can change.  
**All: Thanks be to God for this gift of love and grace! Amen.**

### \*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

*Noisy Offering for Southeast Linn Community Center*

### SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.  
**P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

## Luke 10:25-37 (The Message)– Loving Your Neighbor

Narrator: A legal expert stood up to test Jesus.

**Legal Expert: “Teacher, what must I do to gain eternal life?”**

Jesus: “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

**Legal Expert: “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*”**

Jesus: “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

Narrator: But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus,

**Legal Expert: “And who is my neighbor?”**

Jesus: “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

**Legal Expert: “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”**

Jesus: “Go and do likewise.”

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

## HYMN #754 Help Us Accept Each Other (sung to Salley Gardens (#800))

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

#### 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](http://www.firstpresmv.com)*

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

#### \*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #70      What Does the Lord Require of You?

Low Voices: What does the Lord require of you?  
What does the Lord require of you?

Middle Voices: Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.

High Voices: To seek justice and love kindness  
and walk humbly with your God

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ALL: We offer ourselves with our gifts, Giver and Sustainer of Life,  
confident that you have a purpose for them and for us.  
Expand our limited vision to embrace new possibilities.  
We rededicate ourselves to you with our giving.  
May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of our former thinking and doing.  
In the Spirit of Christ, we would pray and live. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #750 Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (sing through twice)**

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours ; victory is ours  
through God who loves us.  
Victory is ours ; victory is ours  
through God who loves us.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system  
Pat Hogan, 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