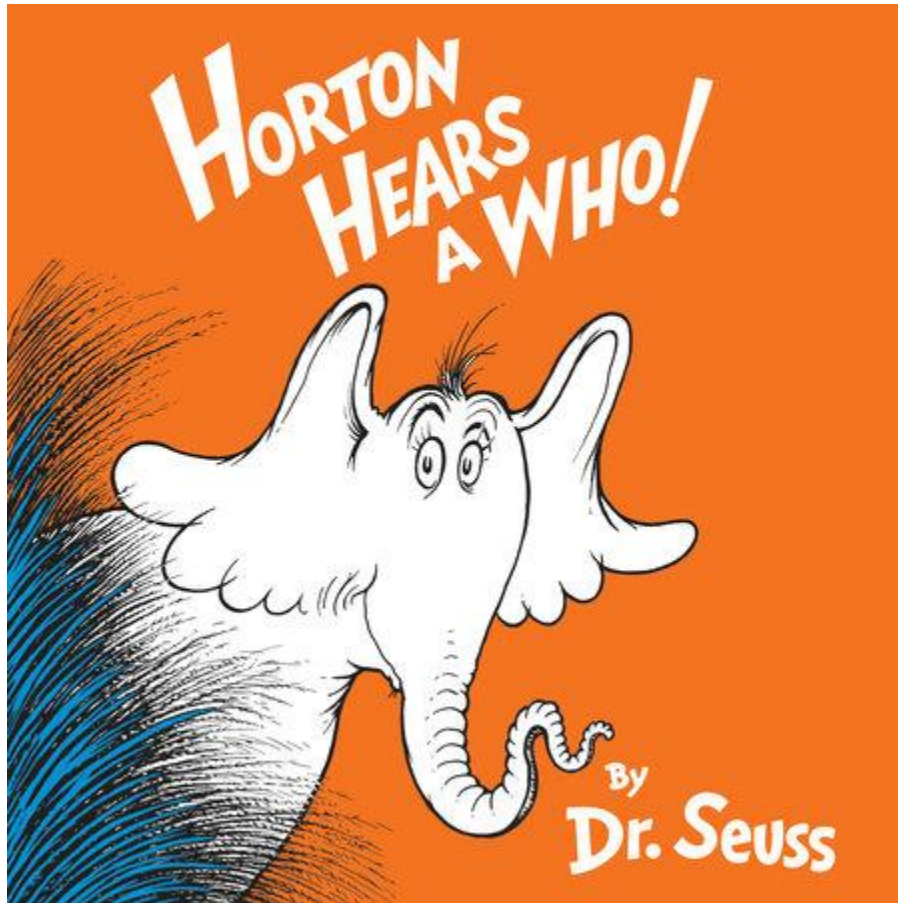


Sunday Worship - August 30, 2026



cover from Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss (1954)

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Week 3

Mark 7:24-30

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: Open our eyes today, O Lord, and let us see what you see.

P: Open our eyes today, O Lord, and teach us to see the way you see.

L: Open our minds today, O Lord, and let us know the truth as you know truth.

P: Open our minds today, O Lord, and teach us to think the way you think.

L: Open our hearts today, O Lord, and allow us to love as you love.

P: Open our hearts today, O Lord, and teach us to love.

*SONG Come, Let Us Worship God

Ray Makeever

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

ALL: Come, let us worship God.

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

ALL: Come, let us worship God.

Leader: Welcome everyone

ALL: Welcome everyone

Leader: to the love of God.

ALL: to the love of God.

Additional verses: Rest for the weary...

Food for the hungry...

Hope for the children...

*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 #796 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

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.

Mark 7:24-30 (Common English Bible)– The Syrophoenician Woman’s Faith

Reader 1: Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn’t want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn’t hide. ²⁵ In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet.

Reader 2: ²⁶ The woman was Greek, Syrophoenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter.

Reader 1: ²⁷ He responded, “The children have to be fed first. It isn’t right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

Reader 2: ²⁸ But she answered, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Reader 1: ²⁹ “Good answer!” he said. “Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter.”

Reader 2: ³⁰ When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

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 #767 Together We Serve

1. Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.

2. We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3. We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

4. Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

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.

**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.**

*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 #700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system
Linda Nost, 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
Teresa Sullivan & family, Custodian