

Sunday Worship - September 6, 2026

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



The Zax by Dr. Seuss

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss: Final Week

1 Corinthians 11:17-26 - Trouble at the Table

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.

Let us worship this God of mystery and transformation together.

-Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brenneman, #14

*HYMN #401 Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

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

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.

~Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation, p. 27

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Do not be afraid! In Christ, God comes near to us,
bringing hope, joy and Forgiveness into our lives.

**All: God gathers up the fragments of our lives and shapes us into new people.
For this reason, we lift our thanks to God. 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.

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.

1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (The Message)–Division at the Table

Reader 1: Regarding this next item, I'm not at all pleased. I am getting the picture that when you meet together it brings out your worst side instead of your best! First, I get this report on your divisiveness, competing with and criticizing each other. I'm reluctant to believe it, but there it is. The best that can be said for it is that the testing process will bring truth into the open and confirm it.

Reader 2: And then I find that you bring your divisions to worship-you come together, and instead of eating the Lord's Supper, you bring in a lot of food from the outside and make pigs of yourselves. Some are left out, and go home hungry. Others have to be carried out, too drunk to walk. I can't believe it! Don't you have your own homes to eat and drink in? Why would you stoop to desecrating God's church? Why would you actually shame God's poor? I never would have believed you would stoop to this. And I'm not going to stand by and say nothing.

Reader 1: Let me go over with you again exactly what goes on in the Lord's Supper and why it is so centrally important. I received my instructions from the Master himself and passed them on to you. The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said,

Congregation: This is my body, broken for you.

Do this to remember me.

After supper, he did the same thing with the cup:

This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you.

Each time you drink this cup, remember me.

Reader 2: What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt.

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.

HYMN # 509 All Who Hunger, Gladly Gather

Refrain: Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

1. All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly;
Holy Manna Is Our Bread.
Come From Wilderness And Wand'ring.
Here In Truth, We Will Be Fed.
You That Yearn For Days Of Fullness,
All Around Us Is Our Food. *Refrain*
2. All Who Hunger, Never Strangers,
Seeker, Be A Welcome Guest.
Come From Restlessness And Roaming.
Here In Joy We Keep The Feast.
We That Once Were Lost And Scattered,
In Communion's Love Have Stood. *Refrain*
3. All Who Hunger, Sing Together;
Jesus Christ Is Living Bread.
Come From Loneliness And Longing.
Here In Peace, We Have Been Led.
Blest Are Those Who From This Table
Live Their Lives In Gratitude. *Refrain*

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!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

~A Seussical Communion by Rev. Allie Scott

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: May your hearts be lightened and filled with God's love!

P: We lift up our hearts and praise God above.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, God our Father.

P: We thank God and praise Him – it isn't a bother!

L: It is right and good-ful; holy and wonderful; blessed and joyful;

To give thanks to you God, Almighty and faithful.

For it's you that has given us this worship time,

Filled with laughter, some holy humor and rhyme.

It's you that has shown us your holy love,

That you have sent from heaven high up above.

And so, with your angels who first sang your song,

We proclaim your goodness by singing along:

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven is filled with your glory; Earth with your light.

Blessed is he who comes in your name –

"Hosanna on high!" we loudly proclaim.

L: Holy God, it's your Son we remember today,

Jesus Christ, the anointed, whom we try to obey.

He encouraged the poor and freed the oppressed,

And taught us that you care about the distressed.

Through his suffering, death, and resurrection,

He taught that Your grace beats out our imperfection.

He ascended to Heaven and sits there beside you,

But still remains with us in all that we do.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

On the night he was taken, he lifted some bread,

He blessed it, and broke it, and here's what he said:

"Dear friends, this is my body to you that I give.

Take it; share it: in you I will live.

From now on, whenever, wherever you meet

Remember our time when this bread here you eat."

When supper was over, he then took the cup,
With praise and thanksgiving he lifted it up:
“For the New Covenant, this is my blood;
A sign of the Lord’s continuing love.
For God has forgiven your every mistake,
So trust in God’s love when this drink you partake.”
May we offer ourselves for God’s greater glory,
And proclaim what we know of this fabulous story:
Christ Jesus: he died, but then rose again!
He’ll return here on earth: Hallelujah! Amen.
Holy Spirit, come down on us gathered here,
With this bread and this fruit of the vine please appear.
Make holy this food, fill us with your grace,
So we proclaim the gospel to the whole human race.
We love you, Lord Jesus, we’ll shout out again
Your glory and honor:
Amen and Amen!

SHARING OF THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, in deep gratitude for this moment,
this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.
Take us out to live as changed people because
we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.
Ask much of us, expect much of us, enable much by us,
encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your kingdom. Amen.**

*HYMN # 769 For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

REFRAIN: and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place to the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair,
REFRAIN

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,
REFRAIN

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, REFRAIN

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,
REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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

Emily Fitzpatrick, Liturgist

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system

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, Custodial team