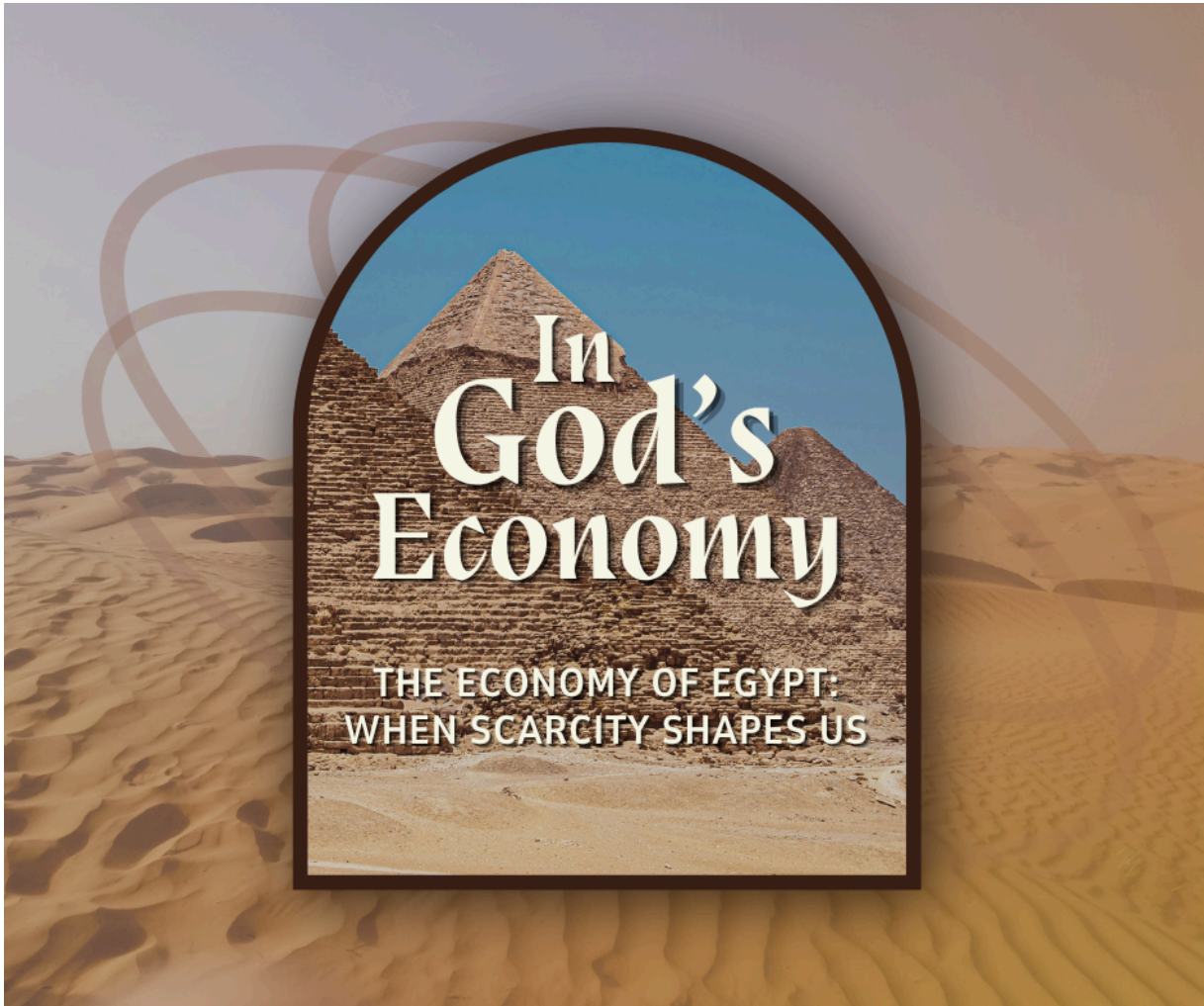


Sunday Worship - October 11, 2026

October Birthday Blessing



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In God's Economy: Week 1

The Economy of Egypt: When Scarcity Shapes Us

Exodus 1:1-14

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

Leader: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and come into the divine presence with a song.

**People: Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;
the One who made us and to whom we belong;
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.**

Leader: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;
go into these courts with praise;
give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

**People: For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

All: Praise God!

~Psalm 100, Inclusive Language Liturgical Psalter

*HYMN #39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

REFRAIN: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

REFRAIN

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

REFRAIN

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! REFRAIN

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: Let us make our confession together:

All: Saving God, since the days of Moses, you have observed the misery of your people and heard the cries of those in captivity.

We call on your name because we, too, are bound and unable to save ourselves. We confess that we build and protect systems that pretend freedom is scarce and cause grave harm. We are quick to consume and hoard resources. We make assumptions about our neighbors before we know them and seek our security at the expense of others.

Forgive us, God. Loosen the bonds of sin and evil. Break every yoke of Pharaoh's economy. Make a way where we cannot, and deliver your people into new life.

Time of silence

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Beloved ones,

you are made in the image of God who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

You are saved by grace and your sins are forgiven.

Friends, believe this good news:

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE #59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never eases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

great is your faithfulness, O God, great is your faithfulness

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

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.

Exodus 1:1-14 (Common English Bible) – The People of Israel in Egypt

Reader 1: These are the names of the Israelites who came to Egypt with Jacob along with their households: ²Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵The total number in Jacob's family was seventy. Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶Eventually, Joseph, his brothers, and everyone in his generation died. ⁷But the Israelites were fertile and became populous. They multiplied and grew dramatically, filling the whole land.

Reader 2: ⁸Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. ¹⁰Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." ¹¹As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh.

Reader 1: ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread.

Reader 2: ¹³So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. ¹⁴They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

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 #36 For the Fruit of All Creation

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring, for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SHARING 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."
(Psalm 24:1)

With gladness and gratitude, we return to God a portion of our life and labor to the Lord.

*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!

OFFERTORY

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #709 God, We Honor You

God, we honor you. God, we trust in you.
God we worship and adore you.

Take what we bring, offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Great God, you are the giver of life and all that is good.
Accept our humble gifts and multiply them.
Accept our humble hearts and mold them.
Accept our humble lives and transform them,
that we might live, trusting in the promise of your abundant provision.
In the name of Christ we ask it. Amen.**

***HYMN #740 Lead Me, Guide Me**

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak, and I need your strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness your face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system

Penny Gerber, Coffee Hour

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Cristina Galán, Office Manager

Rebecca Nickles, Music Director

Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer

María Seda, Nursery

Teresa Sullivan, Custodian