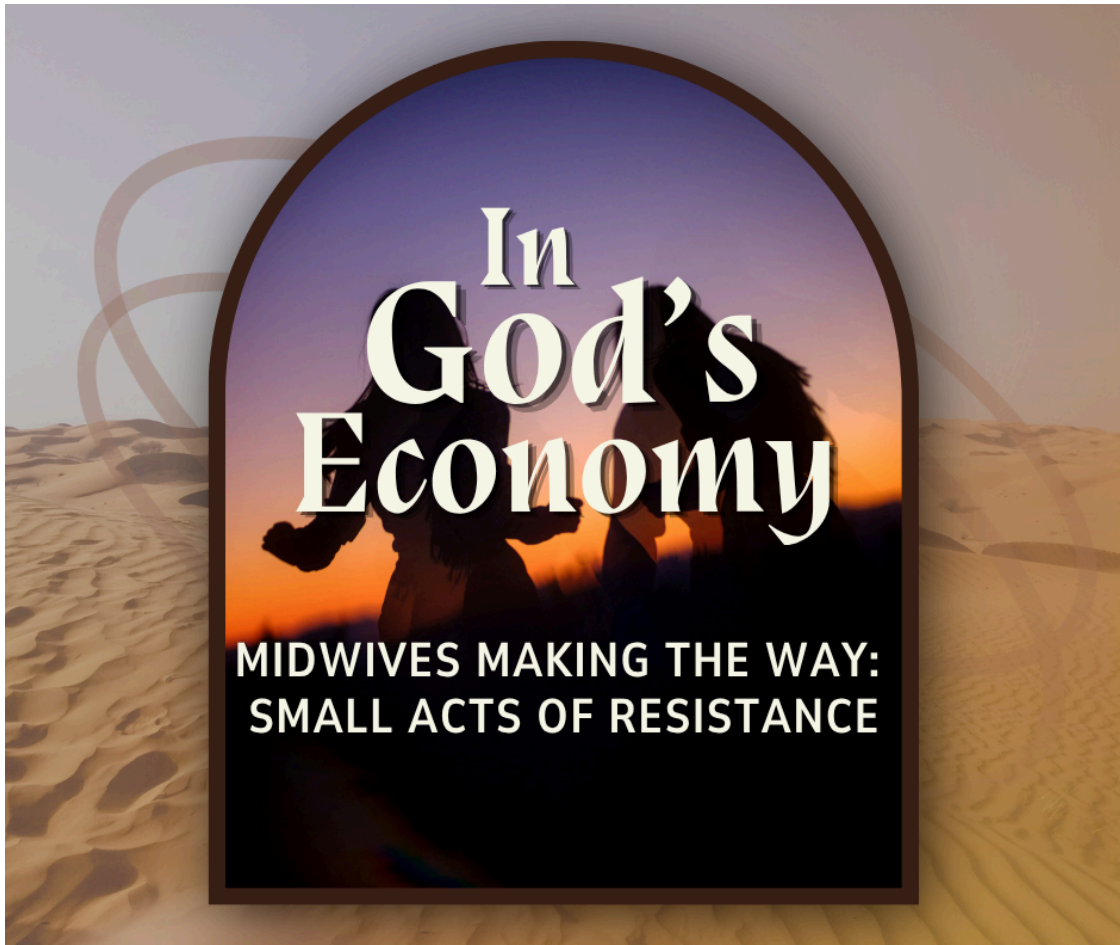


Sunday Worship - October 18, 2026

Noisy Offering



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In God's Economy: Week 2
Midwives Making the Way: Small Acts of Resistance

Exodus 1:15-2:10

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: O God, who called all life into being,

People: the earth, sea and sky are yours.

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

People: every atom is full of your energy.

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

People: with her we yearn for justice to be done,

Leader: for creation to be freed from bondage,

People: for the hungry to be fed,

Leader: for captives to be released,

People: for your kin-dom of peace to come on earth.

~Iona Abbey Worship Book (Glasgow: 2001, Wild Goose Publications), p. 73

*HYMN #389 Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord (sing three times)

Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah! *(Repeat)*

Let all the lives, all the breath, sing the praise of God, hallelujah! *(Repeat)*

*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 Noisy Offering for Escucha Mi Voz

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 1:15-2:10 (Common English Bible) – The People Resist Pharaoh

Reader 1: ¹⁵The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah:
¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born,
if it’s a boy, kill him. But if it’s a girl, you can let her live.” ¹⁷Now the two midwives
respected God so they didn’t obey the Egyptian king’s order. Instead, they let the baby
boys live.
¹⁸So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, “Why are you doing this?
Why are you letting the baby boys live?”

Reader 2: ¹⁹The two midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because Hebrew women aren’t like
Egyptian women. They’re much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to
them.” ²⁰So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and
became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives respected God, God gave them
households of their own.

Reader 1: ²² Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: “Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live.”

Reader 2: ² Now a man from Levi’s household married a Levite woman. ² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. ³ When she couldn’t hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. ⁴ The baby’s older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

Reader 1: ⁵ Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children.” ⁷ Then the baby’s sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”

Reader 2: ⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter agreed, “Yes, do that.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I’ll pay you for your work.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I pulled him out of the water.”

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 #721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

1. Lord you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

2. You know so well my possessions,
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.

Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name,
now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos
sonriendo has dicho mi nombre,
en la arena he dejado mi barca,
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

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 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: The psalmist tells us, "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it."

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

Let us pray together:

ALL: 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.

*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 #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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

Pat Hogan, Liturgist

Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV system

Pat Hogan, 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