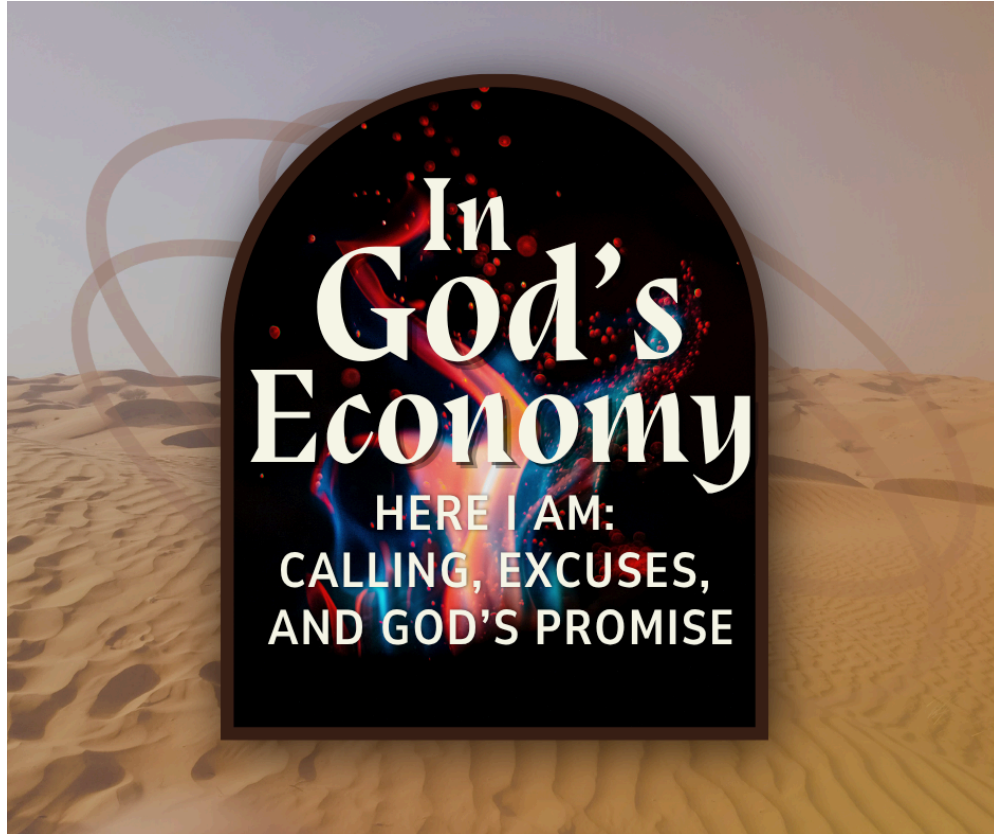


Sunday Worship - October 25, 2026



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In God's Economy: Week 3
Here I Am: Calling, Excuses, and God's Promise

Exodus 3:1-14

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: O God, you summon the day to dawn,

People: you teach the morning to waken the earth.

Leader: For you the valleys shall sing for joy,

People: the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Leader: For you the kings of the earth shall bow,

People: the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

Leader: Your love and mercy shall last forever,

People: fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Leader: Let us worship God together.

~Worship Sourcebook (Grand Rapids: 2004, CRC Publications), p. 65, #14

*HYMN #405 Praise God for This Holy Ground

REFRAIN

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

1 Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.

REFRAIN

2 Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul, and mind.

REFRAIN

3 Praise God who through Christ makes
known

all are loved and called God's own.

REFRAIN

4 Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
raises, humbles, breaks, and mends.

REFRAIN

5 Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done. 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 3:1-14 (Common English Bible) – The Calling of Moses

Reader 1: Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. ²The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. ³Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

Reader 2: ⁴When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Congregation: "I'm here."

Reader 2: ⁵Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." ⁶He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. ⁸I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. ⁹Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. ¹⁰So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Reader 1: ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

Reader 2: ¹²God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

Reader 1: ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

Reader 2: ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'"

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 #69 Here I Am, Lord

*1: I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain:
Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*2: I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send? CHORUS*

*3: I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? CHORUS*

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 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.

OFFERTORY

*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 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**

Let us pray together:

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.

***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