

September 3, 2023—10:00am  
Series: It's a Beautiful Day...

Service of Worship  
Week 3: I Like You Just the Way You Are

First Presbyterian Church  
Cedar Falls, IA

### UNITE IN LOVE

**Introit** "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

**Welcome & Remembrance of Baptism** Rev. Julie Erkel Hagee

**Prelude** "Thou, Lord, by Stricted Search Has Known" (based on Psalm 139) Seth Butler  
Composer: Highmore Skeats (1787-1835)

**Call to Worship** Cyd Grafft

One: At the end of one long week

**ALL: and the beginning of another**

One: we come to hear the good news:

**ALL: that we are loved just the way we are**

One: by a God who delighted in creating us.

**ALL: Let us love the one who loves us with songs of praise!**

**Gathering Hymn 409** "God is Here!" *verses 1-3*

### GROW IN FAITH

**Time for Wonder** *children are invited forward*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Readings** Psalm 139:1-18

**Reflection on the Word** *I Like You Just the Way You Are*

**The Word in Song** "Psalm 139" from Psalter for Christian Worship by Michael Morgan *all verses*  
HYFRYDOL, see GTG #82, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" *see last page*

**Invitation to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Creator God, we confess to a dire lack of**

**Love for our neighbor, our enemy,  
and even—especially—ourselves.**

**And we confess that by not loving as you have loved,  
we fail to love you.**

**Give us eyes that see your image in each of your children,  
and hearts that love others—not as we wish they were—  
but as you have made them to be.**

**Quiet Reflection**

## Assurance of Grace

One: Friends and neighbors, hear the good news:

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear.

God gives us perfect love and leads us into life. Receive and share the good news:

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole, thanks be to God.**

## Response to Grace 659

“Know That God is Good”

*all verses*

## COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table

### Song of Invitation

“All Belong Here”

VIDEO

### The Great Thanksgiving

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*[celebrant continues]*

### The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Sharing the Meal

One: The bread of heaven. **ALL: We are one in the bread we share.** *[all partake of the bread]*

One: The cup of salvation. **ALL: We are one in the cup we share.** *[all partake of the cup]*

### Prayer

### Communion Song 767

“Together We Serve”

verses 1 & 4

## REACH OUT TO OTHERS

### Offering Invitation & Dedication

*Gifts may be given online at [firstprescf.org](http://firstprescf.org)*

### Our Life Together

### Sending Litany

One: Once we were strangers, **ALL: now we are friends.**

One: God calls us to neighbor **ALL: May we go and do likewise**

### Sending Hymn 745

“Now Go in Joy”

1x

### Blessing

### Postlude

"Ecclesiastical Postlude in E-flat major, No. 163"  
Composer: Franz Walczynski (1852-1937)

Seth Butler

**Psalm 139** from Psalter for Christian Worship by Michael Morgan  
HYFRYDOL, see GTG #82, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

*all verses*

You, O Lord, have searched and known me,  
When I rest, and when I rise;  
Not a single thought I cherish  
Is kept secret from Your eyes.  
Ev'ry word my lips would murmur  
Needs no speech to make it known;  
All I do, ere it be started,  
Is as done to You alone.

Whither shall I flee Your Spirit?  
From Your presence, vanish where?  
Heights of heaven, darkest shadows  
Hide me not, for You are there.  
If I take the wings of morning,  
And in earth's far corner stand;  
Even there Your love will find me,  
Hold me fast within Your hand.

In the brilliance of Your glory,  
Darkest night is bright as day;  
Shadows flee the path before me,  
When your wisdom lights my way.  
You who knit my parts together,  
Knew my life before my birth,  
Sees my faults, esteems my promise  
Far beyond my feeble worth.

Lord, how precious is Your favor  
Shown in such goodwill to me;  
To the godless in their rancor,  
Let me your confessor be.  
Search, O Lord, my heart's ambitions,  
Thoughts my mouth would dare not say;  
Judge with mercy, and preserve me  
In the everlasting way.