

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30 am**

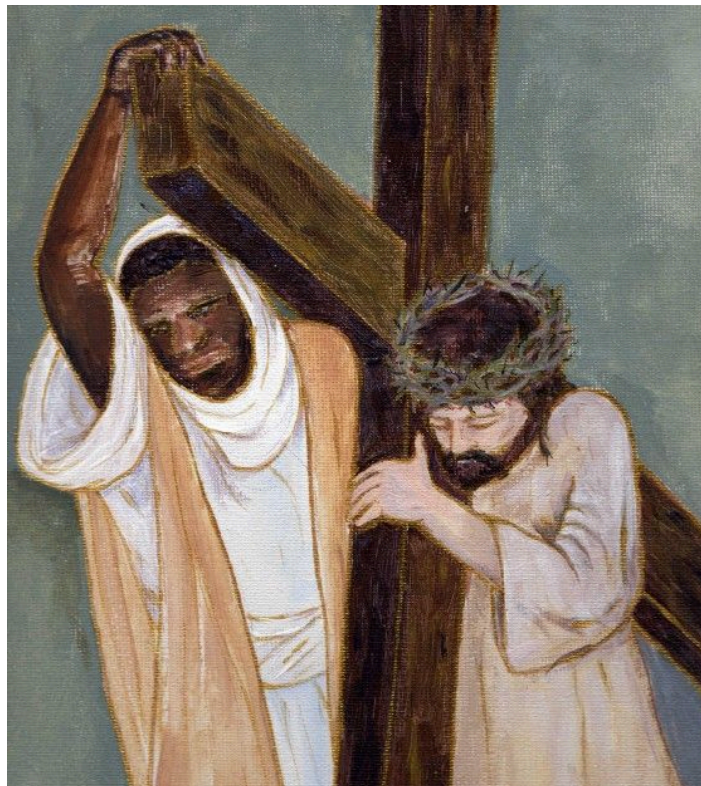
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## VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
beliefs,  
and those who are cognitively  
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,  
**each one engaged in ministry,  
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,  
and embodying God's love for the world.**



## **Prayer Candles**

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer and light a candle at the communion table.

## **We Gather**

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 118)

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Open to us the gates of righteousness,  
that we may enter, and give thanks to the Lord.

**We will give You thanks, for You have answered us;  
You have become our salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

\*Opening Hymn #196 "All Glory Laud and Honor"

First Reading: Mark 11:1-11

A time for Children and the Young in heart

### Call to Confession

We are not so different from the people so long ago; that gathered to shout hosanna, and later challenged his message, denied his friendship, betrayed his cause, fled when it got hard. Following his example we humbly pray...

### Prayer of Confession

**God, our gracious heavenly parent,  
You sent the gentle messiah to rescue us.  
Forgive us for our resistance  
to Your kind and humble ways.  
We confess that we have leaned too much  
on earthly wisdom that has produced  
strife, jealousy, greed, and selfish ambition.  
May Your heavenly wisdom bring about its fruit  
in our lives – peaceable relationships,  
merciful hearts, a gentle manner, generous spirits,  
lives of integrity, passion for justice,  
and a commitment to love.  
Mold us into the image of the gentle One of glory,  
for we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### Words of Assurance based on (Psalm 118)

Let those who fear the Lord say,

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Out of my distress I called on the Lord;

**the Lord answered me and set me free.**

The Lord is my strength and my song;

**the one who comes humbly on a donkey  
has become my salvation.**

In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!

**In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #449 "Show us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love"  
(Please stay seated and sing vs. 1 only)

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination

Eternal God,  
whose word silences the shouts of the mighty:  
Quiet within us every voice but your own.  
Speak to us through the suffering and death  
of Jesus Christ  
that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we may receive grace to show Christ's love  
in lives given to your service. Amen.

—Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, © 1986

### Second Reading Mark 15:20-39

### SERMON

\*Hymn #215 "What Wondrous Love is This?"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

### Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)  
Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #833 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

\*Charge and Benediction

**May the One, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week to take up the cross and follow. Amen.**

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

**And also with you.**

*(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)*

POSTLUDE

**\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

*All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*

