

Grace Presbyterian Church

November 12, 2023

9:30 am

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.**



"Trimmed and Burning"

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 78:1-4)

People of God, open your ears!

Come and celebrate the story of our God,

**a story of compassion and mercy,
of redemption and love;**

a story passed down from generation to generation,
so that God's people never forget

the wonderful things our God has done!

Let's praise God together!

*Hymn #356 Sing Praise to God, Whose Mighty Acts"

Call to Confession

Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.

Ten lamps gathered,

But five are empty showing careless disregard.

Ten lamps gathered,

Five blaze with oil abundant enough to share.

Ten lamps gathered,

Five lifeless when laziness and greed collide.

Ten lamps gathered...

How many will burn tonight?

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For generous hearts to share oil with our neighbors.

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For the vision necessary to leave our comfortable seats in search of oil.

Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray...

For forgiveness for the ways our selfishness and our apathy collide.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.

Come children of God, into a sacred circle

Where sharing creates abundance

And no one leaves hungry.

When light and life are celebrated,

And forgiveness and love are the Way. Amen.

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Posted on her Liturgies Outside the Box website.

Hymn #425 "Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

O God, you alone are our Judge.

Send your Spirit of truth

to expose our self-deception

and challenge our complacency

so that we may surrender to your mercy

and follow your will

through Jesus Christ our Liberator. Amen.

~ from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@North website.

First reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 23:1-13

SERMON

*Hymn #362 "Rejoice!, Rejoice, Believers"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,
through Your Son, Jesus Christ,
You have shown us what it means to love.
And You've called us to follow Your example—
to love our neighbors as we love ourselves,
to offer our lives and our resources in Your service.

Accept the gifts we bring today.
May they help to spread the love we have received
to the world around us.
Amen.

(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.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

We Are Sent

*Hymn #350 Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
vss.1-2

*Charge and Benediction

*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

