

Grace Presbyterian Church

September 1, 2024

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.**



"Come Labor On"

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

Arise, children, beloved, gather in.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

**For now the long days of summer come to an end;
and the earth bears its fruit for the people to gather.**

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above

**The time of singing has come; the voice of the
turtledove is heard in our land.**

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Call to Confession

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting;
God's grace never changes. Therefore, we come together
to confess our sin, trusting that in Christ, we have
already been forgiven:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do
not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but

slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we pass by those who are struggling and in need on other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Hymn #39 "Great is Thy Faithfulness," refrain only.

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, we see in a mirror dimly. Your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom and understanding. Open our eyes, that these many words of Scripture may bear witness to your true Word: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading from the Book of James 1:17-27

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 7:1-23

SERMON

We Respond

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

Offertory Invitation

James writes, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the creator of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Since God is the source of all generosity, let us generously return our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. 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.**

Hymn# 521 "in Remembrance of me"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer after communion

We Are Sent

*Hymn #719 "Come, Labor On"

*Charge and Benediction

Now, friends, God sends us out.

**May we who have heard the Word in this place
go forth to live that gospel in the world.**

**May we go to feed and clothe and tend and pray,
to speak God's love to those who have forgotten it.**

**May we offer our whole selves to God,
and to one another.**

And may the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit,
accompany us along our way,
now and forever. 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