

Grace Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2024

Palm Sunday

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.**



“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Prayer Candles

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

We Gather

PRELUDE

Vince DiMura

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship

We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope
the palms of deliverance of God's people.

Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

Our hearts are filled with expectation

as we welcome the one who brings your kin-dom

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Who comes challenging the status quo.

Who is Lord, not only for us, but of all the earth.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

~ posted on Life in Liturgy, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

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

Call to Confession

Let us pray..

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, who on this day

entered the rebellious city that later rejected you:

we confess that our wills are as rebellious,

our faith is often more show than substance,

**our hearts are in need of cleansing.
Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.
Help us to lay at your feet
all that we have and all that we are,
trusting you to forgive what is sinful,
to heal what is broken,
to welcome our praises
and to receive us as your own.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

~ written by John Paarlberg,
Posted on the Reformed Church in America website.
<https://www.rca.org/resources/>

Words of Assurance

This is the good news in Jesus Christ,
You are forgiven, you are made new.

**Let us complete God's joy
by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope,
with everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

— Thom Shuman, from Lectionary Liturgies.

Hymn #544 Bless the Lord 3X (Stay seated)

We Reflect

“Blessing the Palms, by Jan Richardson”

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 11:1-11

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Letter to Philippians 2:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn #200 "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Prayer of Dedication

(Thank you to all those whose contributions and offerings sustain the church. You can give online by visiting the church website or arranging for recurring donations with your online banking).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/in thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer adapted for this Lent

This beautiful and compelling rendition of the Lord's prayer was posted by the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Our God who is in heaven,
And all of us here on earth;
especially the hungry, the oppressed, the excluded.
Holy is your name.

May your reign come.

May your reign come and your will be done:

In our choice to struggle with the complexities
to confront greed and the desire for power in ourselves,
in our nation and in the global community.

May your reign come.

Give us this day our daily bread;

Bread that we are called to share,
Bread that you have given us abundantly
that we must distribute fairly, ensuring security for all.
May your reign come.

Forgive us our trespasses;

Times we have turned away from the struggles
Of other people and countries,
Times when we have thought only of our own security.
May your reign come.

Lead us not into temptation;

The temptation to close our minds, ears, and eyes
To the unfair global systems that create
larger and larger gaps between the rich and the poor;
The temptation to think it is too difficult
to bring about more just alternatives.
May your reign come.

Deliver us from evil;

The evil of a world where violence happens in your name,
Where wealth for a few is more important
than economic rights for all,
Where gates and barriers between people
are so hard to bring down
May your reign come.

**May your reign come, for yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN!**

We Are Sent

*Hymn #738 O Master Let Me Walk with Thee"

*Charge and Benediction

This is a vision of the way it can be, the way it should be—
**Shouts of welcome, a joyful procession,
a community celebrating together.**

The same vision is offered to us today:
**We can welcome Christ into our lives;
We can celebrate his transforming power.**

How swiftly things changed back then,
How swiftly we, too, can be distracted.
Let us hold fast to his vision of God's kin-dom

Peace from the practice of justice,
equality from the practice of respect.

Following Jesus...

**We will let ourselves be overtaken by God's love
We will pour it back out into the world.**

— written by Jeanyne Slettom, and posted on Process and Faith.

*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