

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**19 March 2023      Fourth Sunday of Lent      9:30 am**

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## VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation, we genuinely welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is that each of us is a minister seeking to know Christ, grow in discipleship, and embody God's love for the world.



**“I once was blind”**

## **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

Day by day, God leads us:

**to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**to pour out ourselves in service,  
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**the community we could be,  
the family we are called to become.**

— written by Thom Shuman on Lectionary Liturgies.

### Opening prayer

**Loving Shepherd,  
you know our names;  
you care for us.**

**When we face darkness and death,  
walk beside us.**

**When we hunger for your love,  
fill us with your presence.**

**When we are fearful,  
feed us at your table.**

**May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy**

**all the days of our lives. Amen.**

~ written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters.  
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

\*Opening Hymn #187 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Holy Jesus,

we confess that we fail to question our own  
sightlessness.

Being so sure that we "see,"

we miss the truths you would teach us.

With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness.

Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings,

our own failures and our own faults.

Make our "shadow side" known to us

and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace.

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

It is only when we see ourselves clearly  
that we can worship you truly.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

~ from Sharing the Light: Service Prayers and Holy Communion for the Fourth  
Sunday of Lent, written by The Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine.

#### Words of Assurance

The Good Shepherd knows the sheep, and the Good  
Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep so that the  
sheep may live. We are part of the flock, we are part of  
Christ's body. **In Christ we find wholeness and  
restoration. Let us go forth and share this Good  
News. Amen.**

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

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination

Show us your ways, O Lord!

Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

Open our eyes, minds, and hearts  
to know your will and to follow it.

Reveal your vision for us,  
and keep us focused and faithful  
to what you would have us do.

Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose,  
and move us forward into your future. Amen.

-Submitted by Rev. Teri Peterson, St. John's Church of Scotland

Reading from the Gospel of John 9:1-17

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 9:18-41

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

\*Hymn of Response # 684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

*Vince DiMura*

Hymn #694 "Great God of Every Blessing" vs 2

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

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**We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #649 "Amazing Grace"

\*Charge and Benediction

May God,  
who comes to us  
in the things of this world,

bless your eyes  
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,  
who looks upon you  
with deepest love,  
bless your eyes  
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,  
who perceives what is  
and what may yet be,  
bless your eyes  
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three  
bless your eyes  
and cause you to see.

~ from In the Sanctuary of Women, copyright © Jan L. Richardson.

### \*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*

