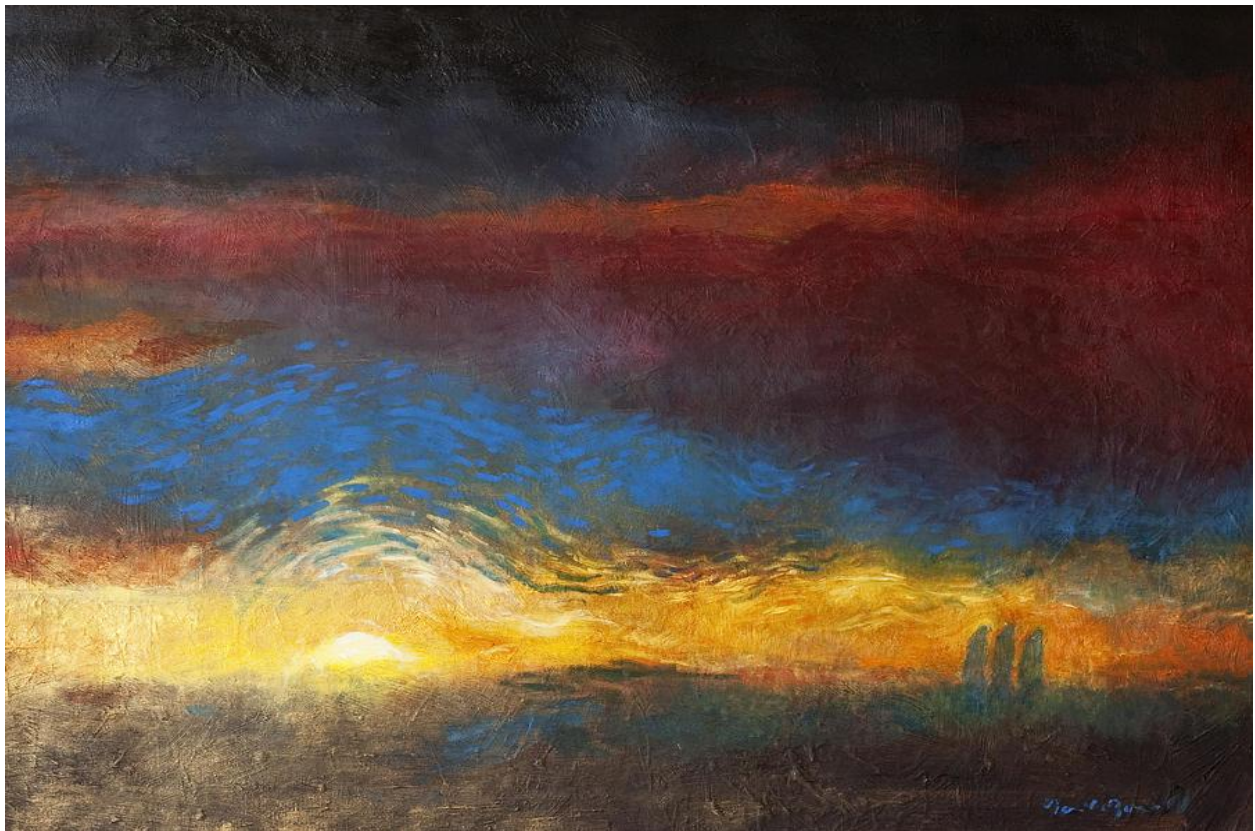


Grace Presbyterian Church

April 23, 2023 Third Sunday of Eastertide 9:30 am

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.



Road to Emmaus by Daniel Bonnell

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 (Psalm 116:1-9)

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because God inclined her ear to me, therefore I will call on her as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

*Opening Hymn #393 "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Call to Confession

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, when we are so full of ourselves,
it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.
(pause)**

**Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture
that obscures the signs pointing to you. (pause)**

**Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart
when we don't recognise you in our neighbor,
or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.
(Pause)**

**Our eyes and ears have become so crammed
with the sights and sounds of living
that we simply fail to see you
or to recognize your voice. (Pause)**

**Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all
that hinders our awareness of your presence with
us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing
presence, so that, like those travelers on the road
to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good
news with others.**

Amen.

Words of Assurance

We have been born anew
through the living and enduring word of God.
In this we recognize God's great love for the world
revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus...
who came into the world not to condemn it
but to save it.

**Because Christ is Risen. We have a new life!
Alleluia!**

Hymn # 434 "Restore Us, O God"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Open our eyes, Lord.

**Without the gift of your revelation,
our eyes are kept from recognizing you.**

**Appear before us, suddenly, unexpectedly,
in all your glory.**

**So that we, too, may proclaim to a world in despair,
that we have seen the risen Lord. Amen.**

— written by Nathan Bierma,

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 24:13-27

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 24: 28-35

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn # 238 "Thine is the Glory"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation
Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Hymn # 643 Now Thank We All Our God (vs 2 only)

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 (inclusive language)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

**And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be,
now and forever. Amen.**

— Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Associate Professor of Liturgy and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the Worship Well website.

We Are Sent

*Hymn #248 "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*Charge and Benediction

The stone has been rolled away!

We will go to share this good news!

Jesus walks with us on our journey.

We will go with him wherever the road takes us.

Jesus has opened our eyes.

We will go to serve everyone we see.

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*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.**

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