

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

October 20, 2024

9:30 am

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## 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.**



*"Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant."*

## **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 (inspired by Psalm 104)

Come into God's presence and shout with the heavens,  
**our God is very great!**

Clothed with honor and wrapped in glorious light,  
**our God is very great!**

Serving tirelessly and caring endlessly,  
**our God is very great!**

Calling us to humility and compassion,  
**our God is very great!**

Come into God's presence, to listen and hear God speak.

\*Hymn #41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

Call to Confession(based on Isaiah 40: 1-11)

Sisters and brothers in the faith, we are not here to  
wallow in guilt,

but we are here to make an honest confession.

Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Friend, we confess that we want to have more of you in our lives, yet without the discipline and pain of preparing to receive you; please forgive our evasions and cowardice;**

**Holy Friend, we confess that we get sucked in by those false prophets who offer us an easy discipleship and a cheap grace; please forgive our liking for cheap substitutes.**

**Holy Friend, we confess that we even fool ourselves into believing that many of our rough ways and crooked paths are justified; please forgive our excuses and defiance.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

**Help us to embrace your grace, mercy and peace.  
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Now this is true love;  
not our love for God but God's love for us.

**In Christ we are a forgiven and renovated people.  
Hallelujah!**

— Bruce Prewer, posted on the website of the United Church of Christ,

Hymn #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" (verse 1 only, 2x, please remain seated)

**We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination

O God,

You call to us from the wild places,

You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts.  
We come in answer to your call.  
We come to pray, to praise,  
To learn of your love for all creation.  
Reveal your glory that we may see it together -  
Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in  
our time. Amen.

— From Valleys to Mountains, Service Prayers for the Second  
Sunday of Advent, was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes,

Reading From the Prophet the Isaiah 40:1-9

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 10:35-45

SERMON

\*Hymn #320 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Offertory Invitation

Let us give and live generously in response to all that  
God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and  
offerings to the Lord.

*Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.

*(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and electronically throughout the year).*

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

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

### The Lord's Prayer (contemporary language)

O God,

Hear this ancient prayer expressed in a new way...

**Guardian of us all,**

**May your Name be respected;**

**May your Beloved Community come to be;**

**May your design unfold on Earth as in Heaven;**

**Give us today the bread we need;**

**Forgive us our failures**

**as we forgive those who fail us;**

**Do not abandon us to disaster,**

**but rescue us from the evil-doer;**

**For yours is the Beloved Community of dynamic goodness and true beauty,**

**now and in the time ahead. It is so!**

-Drew Willard, Wildwood, FL

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn # 546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

### \*Charge and Benediction

May we leave this house of worship today, quick to listen, slow to speak, open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you, may God look upon you with favor and bring you peace. 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

**\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

*All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*