

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

April 7, 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.**



*"Listen, Friends & Neighbors"*

## **Prayer Candles**

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

## **We Gather**

PRELUDE - *Vince DiMura*

WELCOME - ANNOUNCEMENTS - INTRODUCTION

\*Hymn 183 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

Selected Stories from Mark's Gospel  
Scene 1 - Jericho

### Call to Worship

Have you not known?

Our God is the everlasting God,

**Creator of the ends of the earth.**

Have you not heard?

**God does not faint or grow weary.**

God's understanding is unsearchable.

**God gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.**

Those who wait for God will renew their strength  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

**We come to hear.**

**We come to know.**

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #43 "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord"  
Verse 1 and refrain. (Remain seated.)

## Scene 2 - Bethphage & Bethany

### Call to Confession

Rushed by the busyness of life, weary from the stress of every day, we have these moments to catch our breath, to think of how we have treated others recently, to remember how we have not been God's faithful people. Let us come to God, knowing that the One who listens to our words is the One who has given us the Word of grace and mercy.

### Prayer of Confession

**Everlasting God, we know how easy it is to forget your presence and power in our lives. Focused on our daily plans, we ignore the night sky and the stars that glitter. Surrounded by the sounds of anger, violence, and hate, we have trouble listening to your whispers of hope and grace. Thinking that Scripture is filled only with old stories, we cannot understand your truth, which can change lives today.**

**Forgive us. There is no one who can hold a candle to you when it comes to mercy and hope. Lift us to our feet so we may walk with you; fill us with your strength so we may serve your people; touch us with your healing so we may proclaim to everyone the Good News that has come in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

## Scene 3 - The Roads Leading to Jerusalem

## Words of Assurance

Have you been listening?

The Good News is this:

God never tires, God is always with us,

**God heals us with mercy,  
and God strengthens us for service.**

The One who numbers the stars

knows each of us by name.

**Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! Amen.**

— written by Thom Shuman and posted on the Lectionary Liturgies blog.

\*Hymn 182 I heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
(Verses 1 & 2 remain seated)

## Scene 4 - The Temple Disruption

### **We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination (Based on Psalm 119)

Your word is a lamp to my feet, Lord.

**Your word is a light to my path.**

Though the world around me tosses and tumbles,

**I hold fast to you.**

Though I have doubts and worries,

**I hold fast to you.**

Though my heart hurts, my spirit aches, & I lose my way,

**I hold fast to you.**

Your stories and your songs, O Lord,

**They comfort me.**

Your will and your way, O Lord,

**They nudge me along.**

Your presence and your promise, O Lord,

**They give me hope. Amen.**

## Scene 5 - The Greatest Commandment

\*Hymn 63 The Lord is God

A time for Children and the Young in heart

## Scene 6 - Bethany

### **We Respond**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

#### Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

#### Prayer of Dedication

You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may share them with those around us. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. Amen.

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in the offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

#### Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Institution: Mark 14: 22-26

## Scene 7 - The Upper Room, Jerusalem

\*Hymn 186 Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table

The scriptures tell us that Jesus was having a meal with his friends. During the meal, he took the bread and broke it, and he said,

**This bread is my body, broken for you. Do this in memory of me.**

After the meal, he took the cup and said,

**This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood; whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me.**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**We proclaim the Risen Lord until he comes again.**

*The Bread and Cup are distributed or Opened*

"All of you eat of it." Eat the Bread.

"All of you, drink of it." Drink the Cup

### Prayer after Communion:

Spirit of the Living God, live with us in this community and our hearts so that we may show your love and live as your people.

**We ask for your blessing on this simple meal.  
Help us to share it with gladness in our hearts.**

Having remembered you, Lord, we are strengthened to be of service and love in the world.

## Scene 8 - Before The Council of Religious Leaders

### Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, give us grateful hearts for the divine mysteries we cannot explain, solve, or grasp. Thank you for the good news of Christ's resurrection, which continues to impact this world with its ripples. May this miracle and its ongoing aftermath disrupt us even as it comforts us. May it send us out to risk telling others the life-changing story. To that end, we pray for this community and the mission of the universal church. Like those mourning male and female disciples who could barely see the risen Christ through their despair, we are prone to pessimism. Remind us that Easter is always a miracle. That we are at our best when we walk by faith. Remind us that we are called and equipped to be people of hope in a world entombed by death. Remind us that you are at work even now, giving us what we need to share our faith with others. In the name of our resurrected Lord, we pray, "Our Father..."

## Scene 9 - Before the Political Ruler

\*Hymn 518 Your Only Son (Lamb of God)

## Scene 10 - The Burial

**We Are Sent**

\*Hymn 177 I Will Come to You  
(Verses 1 & 2 + refrain. Remain seated)

## Scene 11 - The Women Visit

### \*Charge and Benediction

Go forth

replenished by the grace and mercy of God,  
blessed by the healing love of Jesus,  
energized by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

— written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on her Liturgies Online website.

\*Hymn 192 Shine Jesus Shine

### \*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 as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc.)*

## POSTLUDE

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

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