

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

April 12, 2026

9:30 am

**Second Sunday of Eastertide**

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## WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
races, 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 are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

## **Prayer Candles**

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

## **We Gather**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Call to Worship

Come, bless the Lord,  
in whom we find our refuge and safety.

**You are our God;  
all the good things come from You alone.**

Come, bless the Lord,  
who gives us a rich inheritance,  
and surrounds us with abundance.

**You are our God;  
our lives are in your hands.**

Come, bless the Lord,  
who makes resurrection possible,  
guides us on the path to eternal life.

**You are our God;  
we will not be shaken.  
Let's worship God together!**

\*Opening Hymn #251 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Call to Confession

God doesn't call us to a blind faith...  
but to a faith that is eye-opening and mind-expanding.  
But we often find it more beneficial for ourselves  
if we pretend we cannot see or understand God's vision

for creation. Please join me in the prayer of confession...

~ written by Scott Cervas, and posted on LiturgyLink.

Prayer of Confession

**Creator God,**

**We confess that at times we are skeptics.**

**At times we doubt that You exist**

**because of the evil we have seen in the world.**

**Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light.**

**Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways.**

**Help us to see Your goodness in this world.**

**Help us to know Your love.**

**Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen.**

Words of Assurance (from Psalm 27:13-14)

The psalmist says,

"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

**Know that you do not wait alone.**

**God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another.**

**We know that we do not wait alone; Christ is with us.**

Be encouraged, and encourage one another.  
Go and share the Good News. Amen.

~ written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

Hymn #750 "Goodness is Stronger than Evil"  
(please stay seated and sing 2X)

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on,  
illuminating the places where you are present.

As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your  
appearance,

you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with  
your word of peace.

You opened their minds to understand.

**Increase our understanding, we pray,  
open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord.**

**Speak your word of peace to us,  
let your love shine in our lives.**

**May this worship which we offer in your name  
be a worthy response to your love and your**

**sacrifice for us. Amen.** — written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on the  
Liturgies Online blog.

Reading from First Epistle of Peter

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 20:19-31

SERMON

\*Hymn #231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbered"

**We Respond**  
MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

*Sandra Vandermeer*  
*Violin*

*Musical Meditation*

Prayer of Dedication

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

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)  
Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #248 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

\*Charge and Benediction

Go forth in the love of God.

**We will take this love into unlovely parts of our lives.**

Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet.**

Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

**We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us.**

\*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*