

Grace Presbyterian Church

May 17, 2026

9:30 am

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

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.**



"This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven"

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, behold the works of the Beloved,
how love does reign even in
humanity's desolation.

**For the Beloved yearns for wars to cease,
shining light into fearful hearts...**

"Be still and know that I am Love.

Awaken! Befriend justice and mercy;

Do you not know you bear my Love?

Who among you will respond?"

O Blessed One, You know all hearts,

You are ever with us;

may Love ever guide our lives!

~ Nan Merrill from her interpretation of "Psalm 46" in PSALMS FOR PRAYING

*Hymn #258 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

Call to Confession

Called to proclaim repentance, we are sometimes reluctant to look at our own failings. Invited to witness to God's loving forgiveness of sins, we would rather not speak aloud of our own. Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing, as we pray together, saying...

Prayer of Confession

You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God Most High. We watch our clocks and remark we should make more time with You, but quickly move on to what we imagine in more pressing. We are hesitant to witness your power from on high, as we are uncertain of your presence in our lives.

Forgive us, God of Light. Fill us with the healing presence of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your good news, as we participate in the life and suffering of our world, as did your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Choosing to set aside judgment, God gives us justice; choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace; choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us.

Forgiven, redeemed, restored – we tell everyone through the lives we lead, what God has done for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn #243 “Be Not Afraid” (2x , remain seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination (inspired by Psalm 46)

Be still!

We quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Be still and know . . .

we come to discern the Word which can set us free.
Be still and know that God is
our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.
Amen.

Reading from the John 16:1-7

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Acts of the Apostle 1:1-11

SERMON

*Hymn #268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

Remind us, Loving God, to keep our eyes focused on those you have given us to serve, not looking in the distance waiting. May the gifts we offer this day bring grace, hope, and love to others, we pray. Amen.

(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.

The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent

*Hymn #462 "I Love to Tell the Story"

*Charge and Benediction

Go now with God into the world.

**May we see with God's eyes
those we are called to love and serve.**

Go now with Jesus into the world.

**May we see with Jesus' eyes
those who need to be lifted to hope.**

Go now with the Spirit into the worlds.

**May we see with the Spirit's eyes
those who long to belong to a community of grace.**

(c) Thom M. Shuman

*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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