

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

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.**



*"Questions, Questions, Questions"*

## **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 146)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,**

**whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

**who executes justice for the oppressed;**

**who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!**

\*Hymn # 63 "The Lord Is God"

Call to Confession

Broken and lost we seek God's help, longing to live more faithfully, we seek God' grace. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and truth,  
we have strayed from you in thought, word and deed:  
Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have disregarded what is holy  
trying to satisfy ourselves  
by our own means . . .

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves:  
and feel helpless against those  
who seek to frustrate the hopes of the poor  
Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Words of Assurance

Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness

**The Lord God is our refuge and our deliverance;  
by the presence and power of your Spirit,  
You change us so that we may delight in your**

**desire to do justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

— written by Jeff Shrowder, and posted on The Billabong website.

### Words of Assurance

Hymn #844 "Incline Your Ear, O Lord, to Me" vs 1& 3,  
(please stay seated)

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer for Understanding

Here we are, O God,  
with our human foibles  
and our short attention spans,  
asking that you would make yourself known to us,  
that you would help us to recognize  
the presence of the Holy,  
that you would continue to challenge us, inspire us,  
and make us into the people you want us to be.  
Amen.

Reading from the Deuteronomy 6:1-9

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 12:28-34

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

\*Hymn #688 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

# **We Respond**

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Offertory Invitation

God calls us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Now, may we be generous of hand, heart, mind and spirit.

*Musical Meditation*

*Vince DiMura*

### 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

**Our Mother,  
who is in heaven and within us,  
we call upon your names.  
Your wisdom come.  
Your will be done  
in all the spaces in which you dwell.  
Give us each day  
sustenance and perseverance.  
Remind us of our limits  
as we give grace to the limits of others.  
Separate us from the temptation of empire,  
and deliver us into community.**

**For you are the dwelling place  
within us,  
the empowerment around us  
and the celebration among us,  
now and forever. Amen.**

—Yolanda Norton

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #757 "Today We Are Called to Be Disciples"

### \*Charge and Benediction

Hear this: the Lord our God is the one and only God.  
Therefore go out into the world  
and love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,  
and love others as you love yourself.  
And may God give us justice;  
May Christ Jesus set us free for love;  
and may the Holy Spirit go with us  
and protect us on the way.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Amen.**

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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.**

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

