

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**22 May 2022**

**9:30am**

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## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Rooted in Christ, We Gather in Spirit.  
Welcome to Worship!*



# We Gather

## CENTERING WORDS

*I know you. I love you.  
My arms are held wide open to embrace you*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Come, listen to stories of faith from long ago.  
Come, celebrate Christ with us in the here and now.  
Come, help create holy possibilities for the future.  
Come, drink fresh waters from the river of life.

HYMN\* *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* No. 396

## OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

The song of God's love spreads abroad in all the earth –  
to every race and nation.  
It dances through barriers of history and prejudice.

**Let all the peoples praise you!**

The song rises among the silenced and rejected,  
the suffering and the longing ones.

**Let all the peoples praise you!**

The song can be heard on the road of life  
waiting to offer hospitality.

**Let all the peoples praise you!**

The song brings melodies of delight  
within the Body of Christ here.

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<sup>1</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

**Let all the peoples praise you!**

All creation is gathered close  
to the heart of its Maker.

**Amen.**

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>

Even as we hear the echoes of your voice, O God,  
we know many sit on the edges of life.

**They wait in hope but the plates on the tables  
of love seem to be empty**

*(pause)*

Often we don't think to visit those  
who live across rivers of cultural differences,  
with lifestyles and habits that are different

*(pause)*

**Sometimes we don't recognize other places of  
prayer, because we are not expecting to see  
them, especially if the voices are of those  
who do not hold power and influence**

*(pause)*

Forgive us when we are not  
your faithful disciples, Jesus Christ.  
Call us back to your way of life.

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<sup>3</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION<sup>4</sup>

Feel the love of Christ –  
promised to us from our beginnings  
and traveling with us to our endings.  
The hospitality of God waits to greet us again.  
Come to the table of grace.  
We are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Called to be one in Christ Jesus, we are made  
to love one another in unity and grace.  
Peace be with you!

**And also with you.**

## **We Reflect**

## A TIME FOR CHILDREN & THE YOUNG AT HEART

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>5</sup>

Dear God, let us not only hear of you  
but see you with our own eyes through your Word.  
May we also experience your presence by the Holy  
Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## OT SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

## HYMN

*Listen God is Calling*

No. 456

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<sup>4</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

<sup>5</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

NT SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16: 9-15

SERMON

Rev. Donald M. Pitches

*What's Next*

## **We Respond**

HYMN\*

*Your Endless Love*

No. 60

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy/in thanksgiving,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you gave to John of Patmos  
a wonderful vision of a river of life.

We pray today for that image to come to reality  
throughout our world.

We know that there are many  
who are thirsty,

who live in places of drought,

who travel far to get one container of clean water,

who do not have the luxury that we take for granted  
of turning on a tap and having fresh water gush out.

May the world find ways to provide fresh, clean water  
to those who are thirsty.

We know that many are thirsty for hope,

who long for the day when a life-giving river

might flow to their door and not simply pass them by.

Bring rivers of hope, of truth, of light

gushing into places of dryness in our world.

We know that there are those  
for whom rivers are frightening and harmful.  
Bring relief to those who are plagued by floods,  
or who are overwhelmed by a crazy life  
that washes over them and carries them away.

Help us, loving God,  
to see every river, every stream, every lake,  
every precious drop of water  
as a symbol of your commitment to life and hope.  
May we savour the goodness of the waters of life  
and find new and exciting ways to share them  
with a thirsty world. Amen.

## OUR GIFTS OF SACRIFICE and THANKSGIVING

### *Invitation*<sup>6</sup>

We live in the wonderful reality of God's promise. We live  
in the joyous hope of God's new day. Let us give thanks  
to God as we share our gifts and make an offering.

*Thanks to all those whose gifts and offerings have sustained the  
church during these difficult times. Plates are available in the  
sanctuary to receive your offering. You can give online by visiting  
the church website.*

*Musical Meditation Vince DiMura*

*Doxology\* Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow No. 607*

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<sup>6</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication*<sup>\*7</sup>

Loving God, we know that ministry is not something we do for others nearly so much as it is a life-giving work you call us to do with others.

**Use these gifts and our talents, blended with the gifts and talents of others around the world, to make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Amen.**

## **We Are Sent**

CLOSING HYMN\* *Go to the World*

No. 295

BENEDICTION\*

May the river of God's grace refresh us each day,  
the light of Christ shine among the shadows  
and the Holy Spirit be found within friend and stranger.  
Amen.

POSTLUDE

***\*Indicates please stand in body and/or in spirit.***

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

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<sup>7</sup> Seasons of the Spirit- March 27, 2022