

Grace Presbyterian Church

February 4, 2024

9:30 am

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.**



"Lifted Up"

Prayer Candles

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

We Gather

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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"

Call to Confession

Rushed by the busyness of life, weary from the stress of everyday, 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 planners, we do not pay attention to 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 stories, we cannot understand your truth which can change lives.

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.)

Words of Assurance

Have you been listening?
The Good News is this:

God never tires out, God is always with us,
**God heals us with mercy,
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 # 466 "Come Fill Our Hearts" (remain seated, 3x)

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 and I wonder,

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.

First reading from the Prophet Isaiah 40:21-31

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:29-39

SERMON

*Hymn # 795 "Healer of our Every Ill"

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 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

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

We Are Sent

*Hymn #494 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

*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.

*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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