

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2024

9:30 am

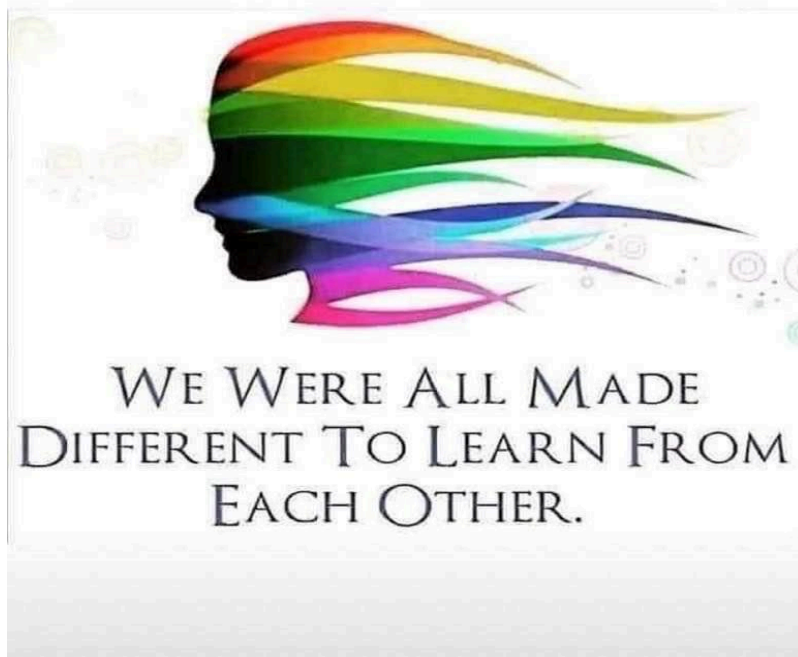
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## VISION STATEMENT

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.**



## **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 (based on verses from Psalm 146)

Come, let us praise God together!

Blessed are we who place our trust in the Lord our God.

**For our God is the Maker of the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything that lives within them;**

Our God keeps every promise,  
and remains faithful forever.

**Our God gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who are starving.**

Our God frees the prisoners, opens the eyes of the blind,  
and lifts the burdens of those who are overwhelmed.

**Our God cherishes those who do what is right,  
protects the immigrants, cares for the orphans and  
widows, but frustrates the plans of the wicked.**

Our God reigns—today, tomorrow and forever.

**Praise God!**

\*Opening Hymn #645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Call to Confession

God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and

discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness.

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### Words of Assurance

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**May the God of mercy, who forgives us all your sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.**

Hymn #646 "Sing Out, My Soul"

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid and distract ourselves from your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer in this worship moment. Amen.

Reading from James 2:1-17

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 7:24-37

SERMON

\*Hymn #793 "O Christ, the Healer"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Offertory Invitation

We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God, by presenting our tithes and offerings.

### *Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. 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 #792 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

\*Charge and Benediction

**May we leave this house of worship today, following God's Spirit into the world, calling us to an inclusive, barrier-breaking, redeeming love.**

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always.

Amen.

\*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*