

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Eastertide 9:30 am**

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## VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation, we genuinely welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is that each of us is a minister seeking to know Christ, grow in discipleship, and embody God's love for the world.



**“Feed My Sheep?”**

## **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

Now is the time to sing!

to sing the good news of God:

**who awakens us with dawn's embrace,  
who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,

in every place, with every voice:

**to rejoice in the One who leads us through each  
moment with a gentle hand and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God,  
from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

**We will sing the good news of Easter!**

**We will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

\*Opening Hymn #239 "Good Christians All,  
Rejoice and Sing!"

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

***Faithful God, we confess that we wander away  
from You. We confess that at times we are taken up  
by the concerns of the world and fail to seek You.***

***We know, O God, that our doubts and questions are good and lead us back to You. It is our indifference that can lead us astray. Help us, O God, to turn to others in our times of doubt and fear, for You created us not to be alone. Guide us, O God, to speak our questions before You, before our scriptures and traditions and teachings, and even if we do not find the answers, we know this is part of the journey. Turn us back, O God, when we become apathetic and indifferent, for that is the true enemy of faith—not doubt, but indifference. In the name of Jesus, who sought You in the garden, we pray as he did: "Not my will, but Your will be done." Amen.***

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

Words of Assurance (from Psalm 139:7-10)

*"Where can I go from Your spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."*

***There is no place we can go where God is not with us. There are no questions we can ask, no doubts we can hold, that will separate us from God, as long as we continue to seek God.***

*For God is seeking you. You are loved. You are known. Share the good news that God is with you, alive in you, now, and love one another. **Amen.***

Hymn #654 "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" 2X

**We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination

Good Shepherd,  
Teach us to follow you'  
to be faithful to calling you give us  
And to be shepherds in your name. Amen.

—John van de Laar, © 2009 Sacredise

Reading from the Gospel of John 10:1-10

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 21:15-19

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

\*Hymn #829 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

**We Respond**

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

*Vince DiMura*

Hymn # 607 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

**Great God of Heaven and Earth,  
you call us to leave behind our preoccupations  
and to follow you into the future.  
Sometimes we find your call challenging.  
We are comfortable and complacent in our present.**

**May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

~ posted on the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

*(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 Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

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## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn # 187 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

\*Charge and Benediction

\*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*