

Grace Presbyterian Church

September 22, 2024

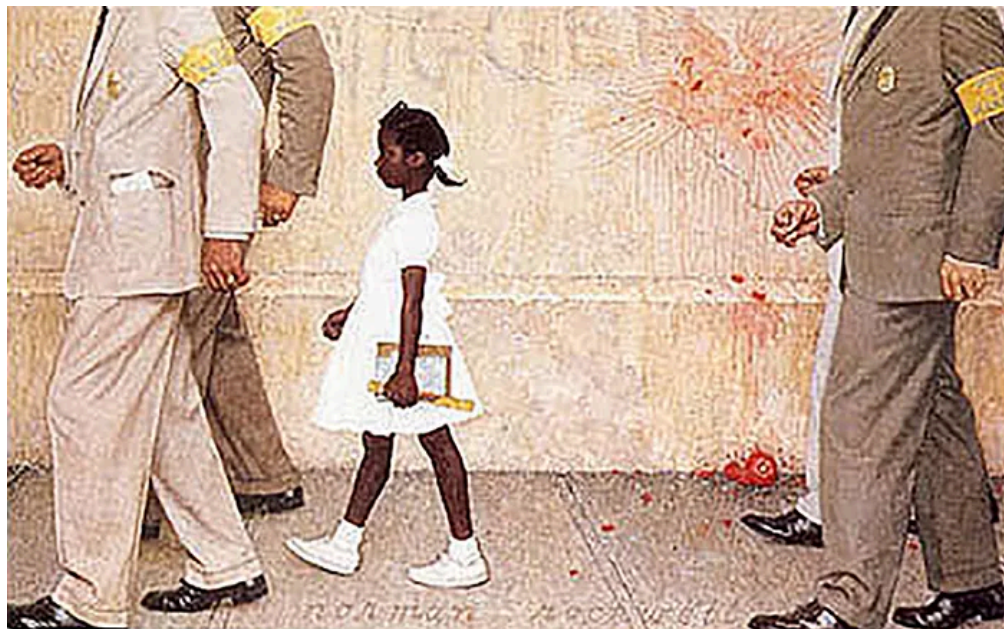
9:30 am

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.**



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

We come here today not because we are clever
but because God welcomes the slow learners.

We come here not because we are wise,
but because God loves us in spite of our folly.

We come knowing that the greatest persons will be found
among those who humbly serve like Jesus did,
**and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth
will come from those who see themselves as little
children of God.**

O Lord, open up our minds and our hearts.

Enable our lives to declare your praise.

~ written by Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

*Opening Hymn #459 "O Word of God Incarnate"

Call to Confession

Leaning on the love and mercy of God, let's speak the truth of our lives. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, there are times when we all feel like victims—pawns in the power plays which are so much a

part of life these days.

You, look into our hearts and question what part we play in these power games.

We know that in your eyes it is not social status, or wealth or reputation that count,

and we confess how easily our lives become enmeshed in other values.

You risked personal comfort and security when you reached out to those on the edge of your society, lepers and sinners—people whom others considered unclean.

Forgive us when we fail to meet your challenge to identify with those whom society would call worthless.

You showed us that the journey of discipleship is a journey into servanthood and powerlessness.

Forgive us for being tempted to pursue power and to favor competition over compassion.

You, Lord, saw the good in everyone and showed us exactly what it means to be the servant of all,

while too often we see others as rivals in the race for success, influence and popularity.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Imprint these words on our hearts and put your living Spirit within us, we pray, so that we serve others and you with wisdom, understanding, love and compassion.

Amen.

~ written by Moira Laidlaw, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

“The wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,
and we are given a new way to live.
Let us accept God’s grace,
and live new lives of God’s wisdom,
in obedience, and joy.**

~ from a worship service written by Bruce Gillette and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for
the Center for Christian Ethics

Hymn #646 “Sing Out, My Soul”
(2x, please remain seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God’s Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God’s bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God’s wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

~ posted on Literature & Liturgy. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>

Reading the Letter of James 3:13-4:3

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading the Gospel of Mark 9:30-37

SERMON

*Hymn #692 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

God, You heap your love upon us
like a parent providing for a family's needs,
embracing a child with tenderness.
Give us enough trust to live secure in Your love
and to share it freely with others
in open-handed confidence
that Your grace will never run out. Amen.

~ Copyright © Jan Berry, Bread of Tomorrow: Prayer for the Church Year,

(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 #361 "O Christ, The Great Foundation"

*Charge and Benediction

Go out, clothed in strength and dignity.
Submit yourselves to God and resist the ways of sin.
Delight in the Lord's teaching,
open your hands to the all in need
and let your actions arise from the wisdom of God.

May God draw near to us and strengthen us;
May Christ Jesus teach us the ways of simplicity;
and may the Holy Spirit fill us with wisdom
and make us fruitful in peace and righteousness.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

~ Copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net

*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