

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

11 September 2022

9:30am

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***Rooted In Christ***

***We Gather to Worship God***

*Welcome! If you're visiting with us,  
take a look at the short User's Guide at the back of the bulletin.*



# WE GATHER

Prelude: Vince DiMura Musical Director

Welcome and Announcements

## CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather today, we listen for the voice of God in our innermost being.

**We listen for the voice of God in the words we read, the songs we sing, and the prayers we offer.**

We listen for the voice of God in the powerful words of scripture, hope-filled prayers, and generous acts of kindness.

**As we gather, may we listen, may we hear may we respond.**

\*OPENING HYMN God is Here #409

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We begin our time together in a moment of quiet. We listen to the sounds around us. We listen to the thoughts of our hearts. We listen to the Holy Spirit.

*Silence*

*A Time of Remembrance and Prayer for 9-11-2001*

*As we gather to seek the presence of God in this Community of faith, each one of us yearns to thank God in different ways. What are you thankful for today?*

Lord, in thanksgiving,

## **Hear our prayer.**

Before we share the concerns on our minds, let us pause to speak our truth to God.

## **PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

Loving God, we are so afraid of ideas that confront us,  
Of people who seem different,  
Of challenges, we would rather not face.

**And in response to our fears, we draw in closer.  
We make barriers and exclude others rather than  
open our eyes and hearts to see as you see,  
and love as you love. Help us to be more like  
Christ, we pray.**

*Silence*

## ASSURANCE OF GOD WITH US

God speaks peace and stillness into our fears.

**God encourages and restores us.**

God helps us to see and act clearly as people of faith.

**Thanks be to God for God's peace that leads to  
clarity.**

Let us continue to share with one another, asking God for the concerns in our hearts and in our minds.

## **PRAYERS of JOY and CONCERN**

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We end our time in prayer as we began, in a moment of quiet.

We listen to the sounds around us. We listen to the

thoughts of our hearts. We listen to our neighbors.  
We listen to scripture. We listen to the Holy Spirit.  
*Silence*

God who speaks and who hears,  
**we remember again that it is you we worship,  
and you are here with us.**

SONG OF RESPONSE ***I Will Come to You*** #177

## **WE REFLECT**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we read the words of scripture, we are pointed to  
your living Word who walked among us.

**We are surrounded by your Spirit, who whispers  
words within our hearts and minds.**

Inspire us in our hearing and reflecting, so that we  
may move beyond your words.

**Guide us into life-changing acts of grace, love,  
hope, and peace. Amen.**

A Time for Children and the Young at Heart

First Scripture Isaiah 43: 1-7

Hymn of Thanks Amazing Grace #649

Second Scripture Romans 8: 35-39

SERMON *Rev. Donald M. Pitches*

***We Overcome, We Rebuild***

## **WE RESPOND**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH with PASSING OF THE PEACE

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**The Spirit sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor.**

The Spirit binds us together,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the  
church.

**The Spirit gives us the courage to pray without  
ceasing,**

**to witness among all peoples, to unmask  
idolatries in church and culture,**

**to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and  
peace.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives.

**With our holy and joyful lives, let us offer the  
peace of Christ to one another.**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please, make a sign of the peace of Christ one to  
another.)*

### OUR GIFTS OF SACRIFICE and THANKSGIVING

#### *Invitation*

Through God's love, the church comes alive.

**Through God's love, we give and we serve.**

The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

*You can also give online by visiting the church website.*

### **Musical Meditation: Vince DiMura**

Doxology (Hymn no 761, verse 1)

**Called as partners in Christ service,  
Called as ministers of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment,  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God's chosen end.**

#### *Prayer of Dedication*

We have all been given ways to support and care for others, particularly those who need protection.

**Merciful God, take what we bring today so that  
it may be used to demonstrate your care for  
those who need it in body, mind, and spirit.  
Amen.**

### **WE ARE SENT**

\*CLOSING HYMN

**Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining** #192

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Indicates please stand in body and/or in spirit. All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594*

