

Grace Presbyterian Church

March 10, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent 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

Vince DiMura

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship

I pray that the Lord answers you
whenever you are in trouble.

Let the name of Jacob's God protect you.

**Let God send help to you from the sanctuary
and support you from Zion.**

Let God recall your many grain offerings;
let him savor your entirely burned offerings.

**Let God grant what is in your heart
and fulfill all your plans.**

Then we will rejoice that you've been helped.

We will fly our flags in the name of our God.

Let the Lord fulfill all your requests!

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed one;

God answers his anointed one
from his heavenly sanctuary,

**answering with mighty acts of salvation
achieved by God's strong hand.**

*Hymn # 403 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Call to Confession

If we say we are completely put together,
the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our
anxieties, God will meet us and renew us.

Prayer of Confession

**Before God and God's people,
We confess that we have been reluctant to speak
out clearly, naming the injustice I see
and declaring God's vision.**

Before God and one another...

**We confess our reluctance to receive our calling as
God's people, made by God and chosen as
witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy.**

**Remind me, God,
that you have made me for your service
and recharge me with your Word.**

Renew us, God.

**Grant us courage
to live out your Way of peace and grace.**

We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

Words of Assurance

God has promised that whenever we repent
and seek a new union with God,
forgiveness is ours.

That promise comes true now.

**Sisters and brothers, know that in Christ Jesus,
we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

~ posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive.

Hymn #844 "Incline Your Ear, O Lord, to Me" vs 1& 3,
(please stay seated)

We Reflect

Prayer for Understanding

**God of extravagant grace,
may your Spirit refresh our hearts
through the reading of the scriptures
that we may perceive all the good
we can do for Christ
and so grow in our faith
toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

~ from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@North website.

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-4

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 14:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn #697 "Take My Life" vs.1,2,6

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Minuted for Mission

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation
Prayer of Dedication

Vince DiMura

(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 Mother,
who is in heaven and within us,
we call upon your names.
Your wisdom come.
Your will be done
in all the spaces in which you dwell.
Give us each day
sustenance and perseverance.
Remind us of our limits
as we give grace to the limits of others.
Separate us from the temptation of empire,
and deliver us into community.
For you are the dwelling place
within us,
the empowerment around us
and the celebration among us,
now and forever. Amen.**

—Yolanda Norton

We Are Sent

*Hymn #720 "Jesus Calls 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.**

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