

Grace Presbyterian Church

September 29, 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.**



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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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**In speaking, in silence,
in movement, in stillness,
God is with us.**

God alone saves us.

God alone helps us.

God alone sets us on the path of peace.

Let us worship our Helper!

*Opening Hymn #330 "Our Help is in the Name of God"

Call to Confession

We long to gloss over the messy parts of our stories: the deceit, the anger and the heavy grudges. But nothing is hidden from God. We come before God and one another with complete honesty, naming our shortcomings that we might honor our name as God's beloved children.

Prayer of Confession

God, do you go silent when we perpetuate cycles of retaliation and violence?

Does your silence mock our own silence in the face of unchecked weaponization and loss of life? Forgive us for our failure to speak out and speak up for the victims of violence in our midst and around the world. Open our ears and hearts to hold space for your voice to return to us: the voice of a better way of healing and hope for all people. Show us this faithful path and give us the courage to walk in it, even if for the very first time. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. We are a people set free from the harmful patterns of the past for a future God builds in our midst even now. We are whole people who are called to make this world whole, with God's help.

Hymn #468 "In My Life" vs. 1-2

We Reflect

Prayer for Illumination

If we are uncertain and weary, speak to us, O God. If we are grounded and hopeful, speak to us. If our faith feels solid and steady, speak to us, and if our faith feels shaky

and tentative, speak to us. Keep speaking through your holy Word, O God, that we may find our voice in yours. Amen.

First Reading James 5:13-20

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Second Reading Mark 9:38-50

SERMON “For, With, Over and Against”

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

(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 #47 "Bless All who Trust in God"

*Charge and Benediction

We will not always get this human story right.

But – even in silence – God never abandons us.

We are a people made for delight, and joy, and justice.

We are called very good.

We will walk with integrity.

We will speak with courage.

Blessed by God, we will change this world – and ourselves – for the better.

In the name of God in community, Three-in-One, may it be so.

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.**

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