

Grace Presbyterian Church

October 1, 2023

9:30 am

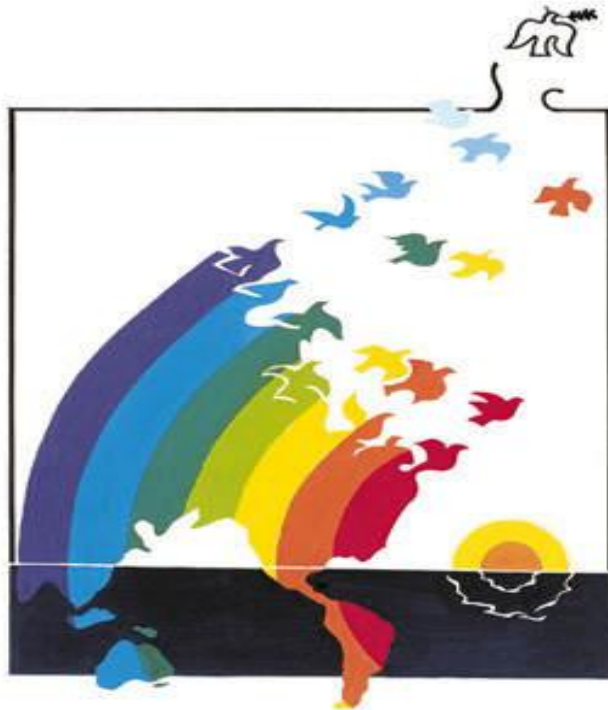
"World Communion Sunday"

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

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

We gather with them in heart and mind.

Around the world the broken body is made whole.

As part of that body we join in its unity.

Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared.

**We, who share in the banquet,
come eagerly to be fed.**

Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

~ written by Rev Gord, and posted on Worship Offerings.

*Hymn # 311 "Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

Call to Confession

We come to this day and to this table
not deserving but needing
to be fed, forgiven, and freed. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

**God of deep, abounding, astounding,
boundary-breaking love,**

**Forgive our closed doors;
forgive our closed eyes and ears;
forgive our insulated living,
forgive our safe and comfortable tables.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Amen

Words of Assurance

God does not remember our sins,
but does remember the promises
which have been made to us.

God does not shame us,
but calls us to new life.

**Lead us in your hope, O God,
and teach us your love.**

**You are the God of our days,
we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.

Hymn #753 "Make Me a Channel of your Peace" vs. 1

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination (responsively)

Let us reach out with heart and soul to the Lord.

O Lord, our God, in you we place our trust.

Let us ask the Lord to lead us.

Help us O Lord to find the paths we should take.

Lead us in Your truth O God,

**And we shall rejoice in your love and goodness
forever! Amen!**

Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 18:25-32

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from The Gospel of Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn #515 "I Come With Joy"

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.**

World Wide Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer
Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer after Communion

We Are Sent

*Hymn #765 "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

*Charge and Benediction

This is a vision of the way it can be, the way it should be—

Shouts of welcome, a joyful reunion,
a community celebrating together.

The same vision is offered to us today:

As we welcome Christ into our lives;
As we celebrate God's transforming power.

May we hold fast to this
vision of goodness—

Peace from the practice of justice,
equality from the practice of respect.

May we be filled with God's love
And pour it out into the world.

— written by Jeanyne Slettom, and posted on Process and Faith. Modified by Pastor Debbie

*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

Bulletin Art: "Lighting the Path to World Peace"

2001-02 winning poster for International Lions Club contest

Hei Man Lau, 13 years old, China Hong Kong

Sponsored by Hong Kong Mandarin Lions Club