

Grace Presbyterian Church

26 February 2023 First Sunday of Lent 9:30 am

VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation, we genuinely welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and or physically challenged. Our vision is that each of us is a minister seeking to know Christ, grow in discipleship, and embody 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

In the beginning, when God created, God looked at all that God created and called it good.

Not only way back when, but even now, God is creating, calling us to join the work of making the world good.

Earth and water and air, plants and animals and people, made from dirt and word and love.

God gifts us all this and more, so that we might glorify and enjoy God forever.

Come, let us worship God together.

Liturgy Link, Submitted by Rev. Teri Peterson,

Opening prayer

**God of the wilderness,
your Spirit leads us to face the truth,
unprotected and exposed:
in our times of trial
help us to resist the worship of empty power,
so that we may find our true food
in Jesus Christ, the broken bread. Amen.**

~ from Prayers for an Inclusive Church 2009,

*Opening Hymn #833 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Call to Confession

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, let us confess with open and honest hearts our failure to live up to God's call. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

God our creator, you asked humanity to tend the garden of your creating, to care for the creatures of your making, to speak and so join you in creating your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We confess that we have sinned: we have used your creation rather than cherished it, we have lived greedily rather than gratefully, we have spoken words of destruction rather than love. We acknowledge the damage our heavy footprints, our hard hearts, and our rash tongues have done, and we pray for your forgiveness. Take the dust of our lives and re-form us into your image, and then breathe into us the grace to live for you. Amen.
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

In the beginning, God breathed life into human beings, and every morning God's mercies are new. In this moment we are loved and forgiven, recreated in the image of Christ. Believe and live the good news:
God's goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong. Thanks be to God!

Hymn #436 "God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

God of revelation,
unveil your Kingdom in our midst.
Show us who we truly are in you:
expose the illusions that distort our vision,
deliver us from temptations that contort our living,
open our eyes in this time of trial and testing

Amen. ~ posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.

Reading Psalm 32

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn of Response # 166

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Prayer of Dedication

God of the wilderness,

**We give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.
We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in
this world.
And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open
hands. Amen**

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog.

(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).

Hymn #697 "Take My Life" vss.5 & 6

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)
Lord, in your mercy/in thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

We Are Sent

*Hymn #783 "When We Are Tested"

*Charge and Benediction

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog

*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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