

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

9:30 am

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## WELCOME AND VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,  
races, 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**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Sandra Vandermeer  
Violin*

### Call to Worship

The stone is rolled away.

**The grave clothes lie in a heap.**

The body is gone.

**There is the sound of weeping at the grave.**

Why are you crying?

Who are you looking for?

**We seek the one who loves us.**

Have you not heard, he is calling your name...

**Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!**

Christ is Risen Indeed!

\*Opening Hymn #232 " Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

### **Call to Confession**

Christ has risen

and we have risen to new life with him.

Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Living Lord,**

**when we stand before the empty tomb  
we don't always feel the joy of resurrection.  
We feel fear, doubt, and distrust.  
We feel empty.**

**Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of  
new life.**

**Forgive our doubt of your love.**

**Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan.**

**Fill our emptiness with your glorious light.**

**Raise us to abundant new life**

**for the glory of your name.**

*(silence is kept for personal confession)*

## **Words of Assurance**

Wake up, sleeper!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

Sisters and brothers,  
Christ has forgiven our sins.

**Christ calls us to new life.**

**Christ will lead us into righteousness.**

**Amen.**

~ written by Greg Scheer, <http://www.gregscheer.com/>

Hymn #750 "Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

(please stay seated and sing 2X)

## **We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination

Come, Spirit of Truth,

and guide us in all truth.

As we read and meditate on this scripture,  
help us hear and receive the Word of God,  
for Christ's glory. Amen.

Posted on Liturgy Link by Rev. Nathan Williams  
Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, IA

Reading from the Gospel of John 20:1-10

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 20:11-18

SERMON

Affirmation of Faith (Acts 10:34-43)

"I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another.

**Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him.**

This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ:

**He is Lord of all!**

We know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached.

**We know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power.**

Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him.

**We are witnesses of everything he did, both in**

## **Judea and in Jerusalem.**

They killed him by hanging him on a tree,  
**but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us.**

We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead.

**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.**

All the prophets testify about him  
**that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."**

\*Hymn #233 "The Day Of Resurrection"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

*Sandra Vandermeer  
Violin*

*Musical Meditation*

### Prayer of Dedication

Lord, you have appointed us to be your witnesses on our block, in our neighborhood, and to the ends of the earth.

Fill these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit, and make them a blessing to your people always, everywhere, and right now.

We pray with you as you taught us...

Posted on Liturgy Link by Rev. Nathan Williams,

(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 #245 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

\*Charge and Benediction

If you are looking  
for a blessing,  
do not linger  
here.

Here  
is only  
emptiness,  
a hollow,  
a husk  
where a blessing  
used to be.

This blessing  
was not content

in its confinement.

It could not abide  
its isolation,  
the unrelenting silence,  
the pressing stench  
of death.

So if it is  
a blessing  
you seek,  
open your own  
mouth.

Fill your lungs  
with the air  
this new  
morning brings

and then  
release it  
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing  
breaks forth  
in your own voice,

how your own lips  
form every word  
you never dreamed  
to say.

See how the blessing

circles back again,  
wanting you to  
repeat it,  
but louder,

how it draws you,  
pulls you,  
sends you  
to proclaim  
its only word:

**Risen.**  
**Risen.**  
**Risen.**

—Risen, For Easter Day, Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace

\*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*