

Grace Presbyterian Church

October 22, 2023

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 (Isaiah 2:2-3)

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains

**and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.**

Many peoples shall come and say,

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,**

That God may teach us God's ways

and that we may walk in God's paths."

*Opening Hymn #44 "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

Call to Confession

God's love is relentless;

it is always seeking the forgiveness and restitution of the wayward, rebellious and the lost.

Prayer of Confession

Relentless God of love, you have raised Jesus from death to be the power of love always in our midst.

We confess our failure to fully entertain and trust

**the love he proclaimed and lived.
We have not loved you, God, with his joyous
enthusiasm.
We have not loved others with his burning
compassion.
We have not even loved ourselves sufficiently to
fully nurture our own lives in the love and liberty of
Christ Jesus.**

**Consequently our characters are stunted, our
achievements flawed, our peace is fractured,
and our happiness is diminished.**

**God of mercy,
please overthrow those feelings and thoughts
which have become barriers against the inflowing
of your truth and love.
Please enter the stubborn or fearful corners of our
being with your light and your forgiveness.
Restore us to the joy of your salvation and renew a
right spirit with us.
Through Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen!**

— written by Bruce Prewer, posted on RE:worship

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance (Romans 8:1-2)

Brothers and sisters,
there is now no condemnation
for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
**For the power of the life-giving Spirit
has freed us from the power of sin that leads to**

division, destruction and death.

So be at peace. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn # 437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy! (2x Stay Seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Prepare our hearts to accept you Word, Silence and voice but your own, that hearing, we may obey your will and know the joy of living though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-5

A time for Children and the Young in heart

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 22:34-40

SERMON

*Hymn # 795 "Healer of Our Every Ill"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of this church in offering plates during worship and electronically throughout the month.

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

God, we believe you ask us to use our gifts
to serve each other in unity and understanding,
God, may we, in a spirit of love and care,
use our gifts to build each other up.
God, we believe that in unity together
we will come to a full knowledge of Christ,
God, may we grow together into the knowledge
of the one in whom all things fit together. Amen.

~ from the Lenten series Journey into Wholeness written by Christine Sine.

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer (First Nation Translation)

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.**

**Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the
spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.**

**Provide for us day by day--
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.**

Release us from the things we have done

wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.**

Aho! May it be so!

We Are Sent

*Hymn #755 "Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"

*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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