

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**April 17, 2025**

**Holy Thursday**

**7:00 pm**

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## WELCOME AND 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.



*"Not my will but yours be done"*

## Prelude

### Call to worship

Tonight we gather to tell an old story.  
**a story of bitterness and betrayal,  
of despair and denial,  
of confusion and conflict.**

We gather tonight to remember even older story  
prepared before the world began:  
**a story of love powerful enough  
to rewrite our endings  
with the promise of a new life.**

In the telling of the story,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in the coming of the night,  
**we draw near once more to Christ.**

**Hymn # 215**      “What Wondrous Love Is This?”

### **The Plot to kill Jesus**

#### *Call to confession*

God, your faithfulness to us is so great,  
that we cannot help but fall short.

We confess our sins, out of the hope you yourself gave us:  
that there is still room for us in the kingdom, at the banquet  
of grace,    where we are feed and healed and forgiven by  
your love and mercy,

#### Prayer of confession

**Tonight, we confess and put our trust in you, O God.**

**For every time you asked us to stay with you, and we  
wandered away, forgive us.**

**For every time we fell asleep on the job of being your disciples, forgive us.**

**For every time we boasted of our loyalty, yet crept away, betrayed, or denied you, forgive us.**

**For every time we hear this story, and think “we would do better,” forgive us**

**For every time we meet your faithfulness, with faithlessness, forgive us.**

**God, your love for us is unfathomably deep, that you know all our failures and shortcomings, and still love us as friends.**

**May we take the gift of your forgiveness, and share it with the world, that you made and loved so much. Amen.**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Friends, the story we tell tonight is a story of the deepest love; love that would offer forgiveness even to the ones who betray him, to the ones who deny him, to the ones who fled when the way was scary and difficult. Jesus offers his body broken and blood shed for us and all the world; so we might know the height and depth and width of God’s love. **We are forgiven, not cheaply, but completely. We are forgiven and freed to live holy and peace filled lives.**

**Praise be to God. Amen.**

### **Preparation for the passover**

#### **The Last Supper**

**Communion: HYMN #527 “Eat This Bread”**  
(continue singing until all are served)

**Disciples argue**

**Jesus to predicts Peter's denial**

**Jesus prays**

**PRAYER of the People**

**Jesus is betrayed and arrested**

**Peter denies Jesus**

**Soldiers beat and mock Jesus**

**HYMN #218 "Ah, Holy Jesus"**

**We go out to wait for the dawn of a new day (Benediction)**

As the heaviness of fear and grief grows.

As the disciples flee and hide,

May the ancient promise hold true.

"Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning."

In just a few days, the dawn will break.

The light of the world will rise.

But there is still more to remember and experience  
before we will see new life.

Hold fast. Trust in the Lord

The story is not over...