

Grace Presbyterian Church

5 March 2023 Second 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 (from Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills– from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber.

God who keeps us all will neither slumber nor

sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Opening prayer

God of the Wild Geese, we pray that You would gather us together, and help us to know the way to go. Like the geese know when to fly, may we know when it is time to move on, and when it is time to sit down. May we know when it is time to rise up and make noise, and when it is time to be still in our heart. May we know our need to gather together, and may we support one another. In this time of Lent, as we wait for the lengthening of the days, as we await the changing of the season, may we know You in the stillness of waiting for the earth to be born anew, as we live into Your ways of love, justice, and mercy. May the God of Wild Geese remind us that we are not alone on this journey of faith. Amen.

Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c)2020. Used by permission.

*Opening Hymn #49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

**Could it be that we are so full of ourselves,
it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.**

**Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture
that obscures the signs pointing to you.**

**Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart
when we don't recognise you in our neighbor,
or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.**

**Our eyes and ears have become so crammed
with the sights and sounds of living that we simply
fail to see you or to recognize your voice.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

**Help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders
our awareness of who you are for us.
Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing
presence. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear and believe the good news;
God did not send the Son into the world to condemn us
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Hymn #544 "Bless the Lord" 3X

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

O God, we trust that You love us all,
in our rising and our lying down,
in our our prayers and praise and petitions,
in our sighs too deep for words,
in our tears and heartache and joy.
God be with us, now and always,
quiet our hearts and minds,
so we might hear your word
and know your presence. Amen.

Reading from Genesis 12:1-9

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 3:1-17

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn of Response # 53 "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Prayer of Dedication

(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 #533 "In the Singing"

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Invitation

Great Prayer and 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.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer after communion

We Are Sent

*Hymn # 434 "Restore in Us, O God"

*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.**

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594