

Grace Presbyterian Church

January 14, 2024

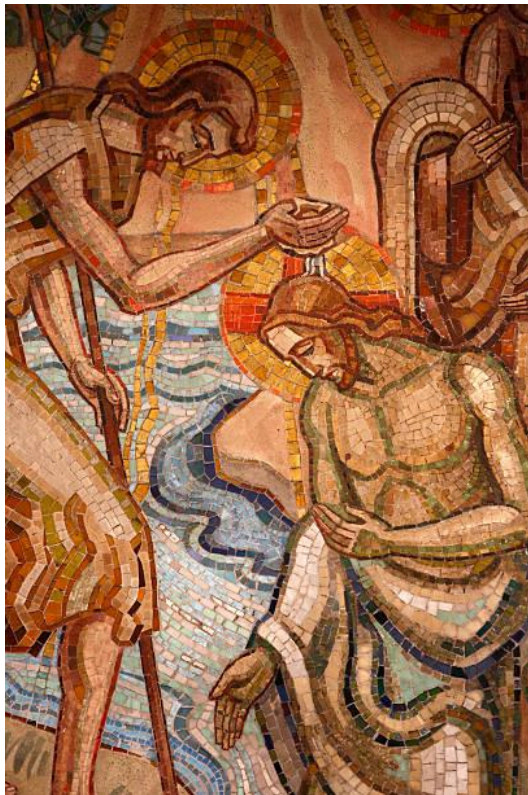
9:30 am

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.**



"Baptism of our Lord" Mosaic in Saint John Bosco's church, Paris

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

Come with your questions, come with your awe!

**For the God who broods over the chaos
meets us in this place.**

Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

**For the God who breathes new life into the dust
meets us in this place.**

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

**For the God who dared to become human
meets us in this place.**

~ written by Katherine Hawker, 2006. Posted on Liturgies Outside.

*Opening Hymn # 393 "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Call to Confession

The Apostle Paul reminds us "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship."

But we know that we have fallen short of such sacrifice, in body, mind and spirit. Let us confess our sins and our need for God's mercy and love.

Prayer of Confession

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.
We have entered the season
in which Your Light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on all people,
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,
our own needs, our own desires.
Help us to desire you, Lord.
Help us to yearn for your presence.
Pour your baptismal waters over us again,
cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.
Nourish and heal us
so that we may joyfully serve you.
Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors
that stand in the way of our truly being
the people you have called us to be.
Let us remember and rejoice
in the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)**

Words of Assurance

The love of God is always offered to us,
freely, joyfully, for all eternity.
Rejoice, dear friends,
this is the Good News of our Lord. **Amen.**

~ posted on the Worship Connection page of the Ministry Matters website.

Hymn #155 "Raise a Song of Gladness"
(please remain seated and sing 3x)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

**God with us,
kindle your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
to banish the shadows of this world.
Illumine our hearts, gracious God,
that we might know Your Word made flesh for us.
Amen.**

~ written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy,
Pastor at First Church Congregational in Rochester, NH.

First reading Psalm 139:1-18

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:1-11

SERMON

*Hymn # 162 "O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God,
who made us who we are,**

**we offer all of ourselves to You.
Take our talents, our energy and our joy,
and use us to share Your love.
Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain,
and use us to bring Your healing.
Magnify the gifts we offer before You today,
to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.**

~ submitted by Gill Le Fevre

(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

**Your majesty is beyond imagination
The eternal King high and lifted up
to whom the angels worship.
Your power is beyond understanding
The Creator God
who shakes the heavens
yet holds us in his hands.
Your mercy is beyond our deserving
The Saviour God once born for us
now sacrificed in love.
Forgive the smallness of our faith
the magnitude of our need,
the depth of our sorrow.
Raise us up to new life
and new ways of service
through Jesus Christ**

Your Son, our Lord. Amen
We Are Sent

Posted on Faith and Worship

*Hymn # 476 "Crashing Waters at Creation"

*Charge and Benediction

Go now, follow where Christ calls you
and proclaim the message God gives you.
Avoid become bound up in the business of the world,
but live in readiness for the inbreaking of the Kingdom.
And may God be your haven and your glory;
May Christ Jesus give you courage for his mission;
And may the Spirit embrace your soul in God's silence.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord with joy.

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*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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