

Grace Presbyterian Church

September 15, 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.**



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

On this morning, as every morning,

we are surrounded by God's grace.

In these moments, as every moment,

we are called to costly discipleship by Jesus.

Throughout this day, as every day,

we are offered peace and hope by the Spirit.

*Opening Hymn 726 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Call to Confession

What are folks saying about us? Do they mention our kindness, or how hard we are on others; do they speak of our love, or about our selfishness? God invites us to follow Jesus and reflect his way of love in our lives. Join me, as we confess how we have not done so, as we pray together, saying,

Prayer of Confession

All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts, to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people,

but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

But with your gracious mercy, Tender-hearted God, you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Can we handle it– the good news; the fact that God’s grace can transform us; that God can teach us new songs; that God can fill us with hope and joy?

It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept it. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Hymn #646 “Sing Out, My Soul” (2x, please remain seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

**Speak to us, Spirit of Knowledge,
so that we may focus on divine things.
Pour out your Wisdom upon us
so we may respond by taking up our
cross and follow you. Amen.**

Reading from the Letter of James 3:1-12

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading

SERMON

*Hymn #157 "I Danced In the Morning"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

**Open our ears to the struggles around us;
open our voices to speak out for justice;
open our hearts to welcome the forgotten;
open our treasures to care for all your children.
We pray in the name of Jesus the anointed one.
Amen.**

(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 # 742 "We will Walk with God"

*Charge and Benediction

God sends us into the world with words of hope.

**Morning by morning, we will speak these words
and live them out for others.**

Jesus calls us into the world with words of justice.

**Moment by moment, we will listen to the oppressed
and challenge the unjust powers around us.**

The Spirit fills us with words of grace and peace.

**Day by day, we will sing these words,
so all may hear of God's presence in their lives.**

*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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