

Grace Presbyterian Church

April 16, 2023 Second Sunday of Eastertide 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.



“To Doubt and Believe”

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

Risen Lord Jesus,
as the rising sun scatters the darkness,
**let fear and the memory of failure
be scattered from our souls
that we may live in the glorious freedom
of the children of God**

Risen Lord Jesus,
let us be baptized by your resurrection light.
**That we may trust in you above all else,
hope in you above all else,
seek you in all things,
find you in every place,
meet you among all people,
know you through the journey of life and faith.**

~ posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Opening prayer

**Holy One,
On this Eastertide morning, we come to you,
singing alleluias, celebrating new life all around us,**

**not quite believing it all, but going along with it,
for the time being.**

**We are your Easter people, Holy One.
Doubters, saints, sinners, questioners,
spiritual and religious,
who skip, run, and stumble on the journey.
We pray that whoever we are this journey,
that you might open our ears and eyes
to your call,
to be Your love,
wherever we are.**

**In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.**

- written by Rev Karla, and posted on RevGalBlogPals.

*Opening Hymn # 235 "O Sons and Daughters Let us Sing"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we confess that at times we have
shared empty phrases and platitudes to assure
ourselves when others have struggled and
suffered.**

**We have tried to force a faithful response instead
of sitting with the questions and doubt. Forgive us
for putting our feelings above another's struggles.
We also confess at times others have done the
same to us, and we acknowledge the pain and hurt
we have felt.**

**We confess boldly that doubt is not the opposite of
faith, and that there is no shame in holding doubts**

and sharing our struggles.

We ask instead, O God, for the wisdom to help one another on the journey of faith. We ask for the strength to sit with the questions. We ask for the courage to listen without judgment. We ask, O God, for Your love to prevail, for it is love that sees us through our struggles of faith. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Blessed are those you who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Blessed are you on the journey of faith and doubt. Blessed are you when you love one another and pray for one another and encourage one another. Blessed are you when you allow others to pray for you, comfort you, and assure you. Blessed are you when you forgive one another. Blessed are you when you share the Good News to the world. Amen.

Hymn # 434 "Restore Us, O God"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

O Parent of all peoples,
breathe your Holy Spirit on us
that we may know peace
and be filled with the joy
of the risen Christ.

**Teach us how to speak words of forgiveness
so that we can be your agents of reconciliation
in a broken and troubled world. Amen.**

posted on the Worship@North website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com>

Reading from 1 Peter 1:3-9

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 20:19-31

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn # 482 Baptized in Water

Sacrament of Baptism (see insert)

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Hymn # 643 Now Thank We All Our God

Prayer of Dedication

**Great God of Heaven and Earth,
you call us to leave behind our preoccupations
and to follow you into the future.
Sometimes we find your call challenging.
We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in
our present.
May this act of giving be a gesture of our**

**willingness
to follow where you lead.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

~ posted on the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.
<http://www.umfmichigan.org/offerprayers.html>

(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).

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

The Lord's Prayer (inclusive language)

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother
Holy is your name.**

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

**And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be,
now and forever. Amen.**

— Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Associate Professor of Liturgy and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the Worship Well website.

We Are Sent

*Hymn #233 "The Day of Resurrection"

*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.**

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