

Grace Presbyterian Church

August 25, 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.**



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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 (based on Psalm 84)

Wherever you are, O Lord Almighty,
beauty surrounds you.

My soul yearns, even feels faint
when I sense the presence of the Lord.

**Our hearts, our very being cry out for the presence
of the Living Lord.**

Even the birds of the air
have found their home in you O Lord,
a source of comfort and safety
where the young may be raised in confidence.

**Blessed are those who dwell in your presence,
O Lord, for they are ever praising you.**

Blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord
and whose hearts journey with the Lord,
**for even when we pass through the dark times in
life, the presence of the Lord will make it a place
and source of life.**

*Opening Hymn #385 "All People on the Earth Do Dwell"

Call to Confession

God of Israel and God of Jesus Christ, we would not be here if you had not chosen to touch our lives with your love. We cannot hide our wonder that you should choose to enter our world and our lives in person and in power.

Prayer of Confession

God of love and mercy, we confess that we sometimes have trouble in our decision-making when faced with questions of whether we wholeheartedly serve you or not.

We are often tempted to put other things and powers before you in our lives—when we are faced, often daily, with choices which affect how we live as your faithful people—choices about how we share the gifts you have given us.

Forgive us when the choices we make reflect not your glory but our own selfishness.

Forgive us when the choices we make revolve around judging or condemning others without first listening to their stories.

Forgive us when the choices we make contribute to our own prosperity and wellbeing while ignoring the needs of others.

Forgive us when the choices we make diminish our awareness of you, O God, in the midst of those who suffer.

Gracious and loving God, strengthen us where we

are weak with the renewing power of your Spirit so that the choices we make clearly reveal our identity as your faithful people, and as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord - in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The good news therefore is this:

Out of love for the world, God chose to share our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

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Hymn #468 "In My Life" vs. 1-2

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Deep calls to deep, O God, and You have given us hearts and minds to be open to Your love and to ponder the great mysteries. Guide us in our search for understanding. Keep us to Your ways of love, justice, and mercy. Hold us to Your commandments to love You and to love our neighbors. Throughout our lives, may we continue to draw closer to You, to know more of Your ways, and to also be in awe at the vastness of the universe You made that we will never fully understand. Lead us, Eternal One, through life and death and into the great mystery of eternity. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Joshua 24:14-18

A time for Children and the Young in heart

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-20

SERMON

*Hymn #450 "Be Thou My Vision"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

(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 #47 "Bless All who Trust in God"

*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.**

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