

Grace Presbyterian Church

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

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.



“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!”

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

Give thanks to the LORD, who alone is good;

whose steadfast love is everlasting!

Let the gates of righteousness be opened

that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;

the righteous shall enter through it.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening prayer

Gracious and eternal God,

Let the silent mystery of your Spirit surround, sustain and excite us.

Transform our gathering to your glory, and perfect our worship for your praise.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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*Opening Hymn # 196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Call to Confession

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better,

and then just go on living the same way we always have.
Let this be the moment,
when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness,
so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and
hope.
Join me as we pray,

Prayer of Confession

**We would want to be fountains of hope for others,
God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts.
We would like to be transformed people,
but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a
knee to you.**

**We long to stand with those who are in need,
but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in
judgment.**

Forgive us, God who came down to us.

**Humble us, that we might be true servants to the
broken and lost.**

**Split open our frozen hearts,
that compassion might flow freely to those who are
hurting.**

**Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit,
that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior,
into that kingdom of grace and hope.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

This is the good news:
in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished.

You are forgiven, you are made new.

**We will complete God's joy
by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope,
with everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

— Thom Shuman, from Lectionary Liturgies.

Hymn #544 Bless the Lord 3X (Stay seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of Lord!
**Gracious God, as we stand at the gates of the city,
give us grace to recognise the king we proclaim,
and courage to be a part of your kingdom -
even when it goes against our ways and the ways
of the world, even when it leads us where we do
not want to go.**

Empower and inspire us to hear your call and follow
through the joy and challenges. Embolden us to live lives
of thanksgiving and praise. Amen

~ originally posted <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>,
modified by Debbie

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Letter to Philippians 2:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn of Response #197 "Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Hymn #657 "Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness"

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).

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.**

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and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the
Worship Well website.

We Are Sent

*Hymn #198 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

*Charge and Benediction

Ride on Lord Jesus.
Upon a colt,
over cloaks,
under branches –
ride on Lord Jesus.

Towards a city,
through its gates,
past the crowds –
ride on Lord Jesus.

As Hosannas fade
and enemies sneer,
as danger closes
and friends falter –
ride on Lord Jesus.

Showing the way,
teaching the truth,
bringing life for all.
To God be the glory
ride on Lord Jesus.

*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