

Grace Presbyterian Church

January 21, 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.**



“Follow Me”

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 (Psalm 89:1-2)

I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever;

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as You, O Lord?

Your faithfulness surrounds You.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn #39 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Call to Confession

God is calling us back to right relationships with God and others. Calling us from settling for business as usual, to become a community of reconciliation. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

Steadfast God, we confess that we are fickle and our hearts waver. We go back and forth between committing wholeheartedly to You and following the propaganda of the world to fill our desires for

pleasure and wealth. We are misled by greed and power. We follow the false assurances of security and satisfaction. We neglect our neighbors whom You called us to love as ourselves. Turn us back, O God. Turn us from our selfishness and from the false promises of the world, with its systems and structures of oppression and harm, and turn us back to You: to love one another, to lift up one another, to seek the well-being and wholeness of our neighbors so that we might also experience wholeness and healing in Your beloved community. We ask for forgiveness, and we pray that we might truly repent and turn back to You, the One who Forgives, Heals, and Restores. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Here these words from the Apostle Paul: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Knowing Christ's peace, and resting assured in God's love, forgiveness, and restoration, may we live into God's ways, and knowing God's voice will always call us back.

Amen.

Hymn # 437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy! (2x Stay Seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination
Compassionate God,

all creation delights in the radiance of Your Word.
May the power and authority of your Spirit
bring understanding into our confused minds
and truth into our troubled hearts,
that we may praise and serve Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. ~ from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@North website.

First reading from Jonah 1:1-17

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from Mark 1:14-20

SERMON

*Hymn # 170 "You Walk Along Our Shoreline"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

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, 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.

(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 #721 "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

*Charge and Benediction

Go and share the good news:
God is calling your name, for God loves you so much.
God wants you to find the right way.
God's plan for is abundant life.
Live into this good news. Amen.

*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

*Call to worship, Prayer of confession, Assurance of pardon, and Charge from
Rev-o-lution Worship Resources*