

Grace Presbyterian Church

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

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.**



"He has been raised, He is not here."

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

Christ is Risen! Shout Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Celebrate this day of days!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all creation be amazed!

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

*Opening Hymn #232 " Jesus Christ is Risen Today!"

Call to Confession

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Jesus Christ is risen today. And all who believed are raised to new life and renew relationship with God and creation.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia. Amen.**

Hymn #434 "Restore in Us, O God" vs.1 & 3 (Stay Seated)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 53:1-9

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Mark 16:1-8

SERMON

*Hymn #235 "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

We Respond

Affirmation of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

-excerpt from Brief Statement of Faith

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's resurrecting ministry.

Choir anthem "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Prayer of Dedication

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. 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

**O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;
May we work with you to establish
your new order of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth,
And help us, through forgiving others,
to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil,
For all tenderness, strength and love are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Bill Wallace, Aotearoa/New Zealand

We Are Sent

*Hymn #245 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

*Charge and Benediction

Let us celebrate this day of days!

I will rejoice in God, my Savior!

Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ!

I will shout Alleluia's for all to hear!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever.

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.**

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