

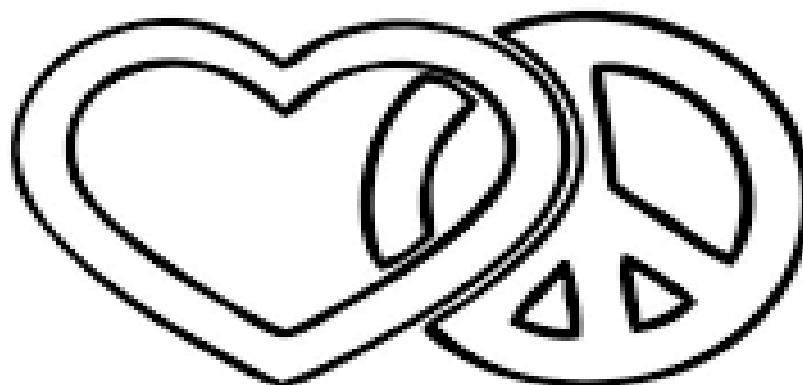
# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

**May 21, 2023    7th Sunday of Eastertide    9:30 am**

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## 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.



***“Promise of Peace, Called to Love”***

## **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

Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

**We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.**

Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.

**Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.**

Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.

**We will tell of the joy and of the love, of the peace and of the hope which is ours.**

\*Opening Hymn #242

"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded"

### Call to Confession

We are called to be honest with ourselves and our God.

Let us pray...

### Prayer of Confession

**Creator God, we confess that we have followed idols that distract us from You. The idol of wealth. The idol of notoriety. The idol of busy-ness. The idol**

**of worldly success. All the things we wish we had more of, or that we have paid far too much attention to. Help us to let go of these idols, to remove them from our lives. Help us to counter these idols. For wealth, remind us of Your generous and abundant love. For notoriety, remind us that You know our inmost thoughts and the hairs on our head, more than anyone else could ever know us. For busy-ness, remind us to practice Sabbath rest. For worldly success, remind us that our treasure is in You, and in the hearts of one another. May we leave the idols of this world behind and instead live into Your way, Your truth, and Your life. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### Words of Assurance

If we love one another, **we must forgive one another.**

If we love ourselves, **we will seek forgiveness and restoration.**

If we love God, **we will seek to serve God in the world.**

Know this, that you are beloved and forgiven. Go forth into the world sharing God's love, grace, forgiveness, healing, and restoration, and may God's peace be with you. **Amen.**

Rev-o-lution Worship Resources

Hymn #654 "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" 2x

## **We Reflect**

Prayer of Illumination

**Without your wisdom,  
we would be speechless;  
without your peace,  
we would be heartless;  
without your presence,  
we would be graceless.  
Bearer of Truth,  
open our hearts and mind,  
our eyes and ears  
to the way that leads to life. Amen.**

Reading from I Peter 3:13-18

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 14:15-21

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

\*Hymn of Response #286 "Breathe On Me Breath of God"

## **We Respond**

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

*Vince DiMura*

Hymn #607 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessing Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

**May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,  
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly  
so that God's way may be realized anew in this  
world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and  
then tend your precious garden. Amen.**

~ written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on Liturgy Outside.

*(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

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn #546 "Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

\*Charge and Benediction

Listen to the promise Jesus makes:

I will never abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

Even though the world will not be able to see me,

I will never vanish from your sight.

And since I live, you will also live.

Go from here in the knowledge

that you do not go alone:

the power and presence of God goes with you.

Praise be to God!

~ REworship website, Christine Longhurst

\*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*