

Grace Presbyterian Church

23 October 2022

9:30am

Ordinary Time, Proper 25

*Rooted in Christ, We Gather in Person, Filled with the Spirit, We Worship God.
Welcome !*



Prayer Candles
**Before worship, offer a prayer and light a
candle at the communion table.**

We Gather

PRELUDE

Vince Di Mura Music Director

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

We did not first seek God.

God first came looking for us.

We do not find God.

It is God who finds us.

Come, let us free ourselves
of expectation and responsibility.

**Let us honor God here
in our worship today.**

Come, let us worship.

HYMN* Open Now the Gates of Beauty

No. 403

OPENING PRAYER²

Loving God,

we come into your presence with singing

we come, each one and all,

with unique strengths and weaknesses;

¹ Seasons of the Spirit- October 23, 2022

² Seasons of the Spirit- October 23, 2022

together, your children.

Thank you for the creation, in your love,
of a space where we are accepted as we are,
where we can breathe, be honest, learn, and grow.

Thank you for meeting with us here.

Thank you for brothers and sisters in the faith.

You teach and empower us to live together,
to serve the gospel and change the world
in life that does not die, and love that does not end.

Loving God, thank you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION³

Forgiving God,
every minute of every day
the world asks us to compare ourselves with other
people.

We confess that we give in to this temptation,
sometimes feeling worse
but most often feeling better than others.

**We ask you to forgive us.
May we dwell in your presence
where each person and all people
reflect your love to one another
and are satisfied. Amen.**

³ Seasons of the Spirit- October 231, 2022

Words of Affirmation

(Based on Psalm 65)

God's promise to every generation is to know that God is there for us, and we shall never be put to shame.

Receive God's grace and offer it to one another. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Called to be one in Christ Jesus, we are made to love one another in unity and grace.

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

(Raise your hand in a sign of peace and blessings)

We Reflect

A time for Children and the Young in heart

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION⁴

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may receive with confidence and joy
what you say to us today. Amen.**

HYMN

Sing of God Made Manifest

No. 156

OT Responsive reading

Psalm 65:1-13

(OT page 527 in the pew Bible)

⁴ Seasons of the Spirit- October 23, 2022

OT SCRIPTURE LESSON
NT SCRIPTURE LESSON
SERMON

Joel 2: 18-29
John 1: 43-51
Rev. Donald M. Pitches

Come and See, Go and Tell

We Respond
A Moment or Two for Stewardship
Stewardship Committee, and Christian Education

MISSION STATEMENT
To Know, Love and Serve God

VISION STATEMENT

As 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. It is our vision that each of us is a minister, seeking to know Christ, to grow in discipleship and to embody God's love for the world.

HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* No.450

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE
Sharing our Joys and Concerns
That light is God's love, and you are so held.
Feel that love holding you as we pray together:

Lord, In Your Mercy/Thanksgiving R+ **Hear Our Prayer**

Loving God,
Sometimes we forget your presence.

Help us to know you.

Sometimes we think everything depends upon us,
and we know our inadequacy.

Thank you for being present and for loving us.

**Thank you for being present everywhere
and loving all people.**

Help us to know you with keen minds
and love you with new hearts
and serve you with joy and light.

We pray for a hurting world
that people can experience, in difficulty and pain,
your arms around them,
your eyes seeing them,
Your Holy Spirit filling them
your everlasting presence there forever home.

Help us to share this good news
and to do it in ways that the messenger of love
is congruent with the message of love.

Inspire us as we pray.

We pray for our children and our families (*pause*).

We pray for the scary places in our lives which cause us
worry (*pause*).

We pray for the leaders of our world (*pause*).

We pray for the mysteries we cannot answer,
the puzzles we cannot decipher (*pause*)
the relationships that failed, the plans that fell through,
the dreams that faded. (*pause*)

We pray for all the unknowns that spur us to ask whether
we will have enough

or be enough for challenges to come (*pause*).

And, finally, we commit ourselves to you.

**We trust you, God, that you will never leave us.
That in your great grace and love through Jesus
Christ, we are renewed and re-energized.
For the gift of that home in your heart,
we thank you and praise you. Amen.**

OUR GIFTS OF SACRIFICE and THANKSGIVING

*Invitation*⁵

Loving God, you have blessed us beyond measure.
Help us to remember people in need and be willing to
share.

When we are the ones in need, help us be willing to
receive.

We recognize that giving and receiving are two aspects of
one thing: love.

May we be loved and loving. Amen.

*Ushers, please come forward to receive the offering plates.
Thank you to all those whose gifts and offerings sustain the
church. You can also give online by visiting the church website or
through your online banking.*

Musical Meditation

*Doxology**

Vince DiMura

No. 712 v.3

**In gratitude and humble trust,
we bring our best today, to serve your
cause and share your love with all
along life's way.**

**O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

⁵ Seasons of the Spirit- October 23 2022

*Prayer of Dedication**⁶

**As we are able, we have offered gifts in this place,
on these plates, or sent from home.**

**May they flow through this community and into the
world and help to build your realm of peace and
love for all. Amen.**

We Are Sent

CLOSING HYMN* *Go to the World* No. 295
BENEDICTION*

Go out into the world in courage and peace,
holding lightly to the things of this world,
and tightly to God's love.

POSTLUDE

****Indicates please stand in body and/or in spirit.***

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594

⁶ Seasons of the Spirit-October 23, 2022