

Grace Presbyterian Church

April 14, 2024 3rd Sunday Of Easter 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.**



"Slow of Heart to Believe"

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 (based on Psalm 40)

O God, you called us by name to come,
and we respond with delight and gladness

In joyful obedience, we come to worship our God.

Rising out of the depths of despair,
we gratefully gather for worship.

In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.

Our God had given us a new song
of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

In joyful trust, we come to worship our God. Amen.

~ written by Joan Stott, and posted on The Timeless Psalms.

*Opening Hymn #248 "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna"

Call to Confession

Risen Lord Jesus,

What is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

Prayer of Confession

Risen One, Forgive us when we are so full of ourselves, it is easy to block you right out of our lives.

**Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture
that obscures the signs pointing to you.
Perhaps it is our slowness of heart;
when we don't recognise you in our neighbor,
or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.
Or when our eyes and ears are so crammed with
the sights and sounds of this world that we simply
fail to see you or to recognize your voice.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

**Risen Lord Jesus,
help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our
awareness of your presence with us.
Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing
presence, so that, we too, hasten to share this
great good news with others. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Whether we believe it, or not, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness.

We are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

— from Words for Worship.

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

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Living God,
teach us how to dance
to the rhythm of your wisdom;

show us how to laugh
with the insights of your truth,
so that we can live for the praise of your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:22-24

A Time for Children and the Young in Heart

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 24:13-32

SERMON

*Hymn #231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication

Offertory Invitation

Music

Prayer of Dedication

(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 #257 "The Risen Christ"

*Charge and Benediction

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,

bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see.

~ written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on The Painted Prayerbook.

*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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