

Grace Presbyterian Church

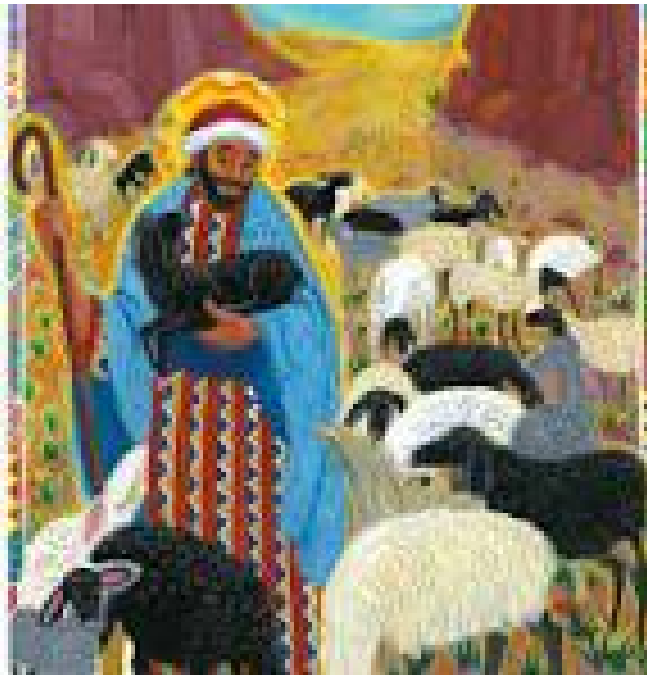
April 21, 2024 4th Sunday Of Easter 9:30 am

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.**



"I am the good shepherd"

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

Jesus says, I AM the good shepherd

**The one who tends us, and guides us into pastures,
who knows us by our names.**

Jesus says, I AM the good shepherd

**The one who bends to heal us,
who travels through the deepest valleys with us,
who gave up everything for us all.**

Jesus says, I AM the good shepherd

**The one whose rod and staff
comfort and challenge us,
whose strength and love holds us,
who fills the cup of grace to overflowing.**

Jesus says, I AM the good shepherd

Come dwell in the house of the Lord forever

**We gather here
as God's People,**

**in God's love,
willing participants of God's world**

~ posted on the New Kilpatrick Parish Church website

*Opening Hymn #187 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Call to Confession

**God of wisdom,
we confess the foolishness of our ways,
and our failure to follow you in your paths of right
relationships – with you and with others.**

We have gone astray; we feel lost.

**We have upheld our own interests first,
to the detriment of others.**

**We have failed to be generous with the poor,
and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

**We feel the stains of our sins, God;
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
Wash the sinfulness out of us,
and help us to live more faithfully as your servants.
We seek your guiding hand on our lives. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Merciful and loving God,

We thank you for never losing sight of us.

When we are lost, you to call us by our name,
like the good shepherd, drawing us back into your fold,
celebrating our return

**May your joy flow into our lives each day,
and be faithfully reflected into the world around us.
Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd.**

~ posted on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website.

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

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Awaken us from our slumber,
That we may bring your fears and anxieties
into the presence of the Lord our God.
Call us, O Shepherd,
May we hear and follow where you lead.
May the light of Christ
shine into the hidden darkness of our hearts and minds,
and ready us for the service of the Lord.

~ written by Rev MaryAnn Rennie, and posted on the Church of Scotland's
Starters for Sunday website.

Reading from the 1 John 3:16-24

A Time for Children and the Young in Heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 10:11-18

SERMON

*Hymn #238 "Thine is the Glory"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

The Shepherd cares for us,
providing all that we need in abundance.
The Shepherd calls us to love one another
in truth and action.

May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd's care.
May our offerings show our willingness to love one
another.

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

**God of love,
you abide with us;
you provide for all our needs
and guide us in your ways.
Out of gratitude for your care,
we bring our gifts before you.
Use them for your work of caring,
that all may feast at the table of abundance,
walk without fear,
and drink deeply from the cup of compassion.
Amen.**

~ written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters.

*(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 #542 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

*Charge and Benediction

**My dearest Lord.
Be Thou a bright flame before me.
Be Thou a guiding star above me.
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me.
Be Thou a kindly shepherd calling me.
Today and evermore.**

~ excerpted from a longer prayer by St. Columba.

*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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