

Grace Presbyterian Church

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

9:30 am

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.



Resurrection by Paul T. Granlund

“Bursting with Life”

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

In emptiness of night,

We wait for dawn to break open.

In our grief and suffering,

We weep and look for something to hold on to.

In the finality of the tomb,

We wait for the dead to rise.

In the face of death,

We declare the Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Like the women we come to the tomb,

imagining our own death,

Knowing the emptiness and grief.

Remembering how we have treated other people—
members of our family, friends and neighbors.

**Lord we come to your tomb,
seeing a needy world before us,**

**the pain of starving children,
the violence in our communities,
and we know that collectively we share in those
injustices.**

Like disciples too afraid to go to the tomb,
searching within ourselves
and we cannot escape what we are,
people caught up in the pain of our own wrongdoing,
feeling a deep loneliness
and frustration of what we could be but are not.

**Lord when we come to the your tomb,
we lay before you our pain,
our emptiness and look to you for hope.**

People of God, "do not be afraid, the one you seek,
Jesus who was crucified, he is not here, he has been
raised"

**But our wounds are deep, our sin is great
we have turned away from the one who loves us,
we have scattered like sheep without a shepherd.**

Do not dwell on your brokenness and sin any longer
For the tomb is empty
and Christ is risen
to heal you,
to forgive you;
to change us all
and bind us together forever.

Christ has risen to forgive us

and to offer us new life.

Thanks be to God.

— excerpted from Service of Holy Communion 2010, posted on the River of Life website, modified by Pastor Debbie.

Hymn # 434 "Restore Us, O God"

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

Creator of Life,
in raising Christ Jesus
up, through, out of, and beyond
the chains of death,
You opened for us the way
to eternal and abundant life.

May our Alleluias on this day
float high above the ceiling
of what we think we know
and transcend to the heaven of
what we believe—and thus live.

Raise us up!
Renew our lives!
Resurrect our dreams!
Through Jesus Christ our Living Savior,
Amen.

~ written by Karen Turner, and posted on the **Lifeway** website.

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

*Hymn #246 "Christ is Alive!"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

Hymn #647 "Give Thanks"

Prayer of Dedication

God of great gifts:

This morning we give you praise,

we give you glory,

we give you thanks!

With resurrection humming in our hearts,

our minds are tuned to your song of peace!

We joyfully present these gifts to you,

a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,

a harmony of hope for your kingdom comes!

Amen.

~ written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship.

(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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Invitation

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

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (inclusive language)

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother
Holy is your name.**

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

**And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be,
now and forever. Amen.**

— Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Associate Professor of Liturgy
and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the
Worship Well website.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer after Communion

We Are Sent

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

*Charge and Benediction

As Christ burst forth from the tomb,

may new life burst forth in us
May we show it in acts of love
and healing for a hurting world.
And may the same Christ,
who was dead but is alive forever
Who is the source of our new life,
keep your hearts rejoicing
and grant you peace this day and always. Amen.

~ posted on Joanna Harader on her Spacious Faith blog.
Modified by Pastor Debbie

*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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