

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

22 January 2023

9:30 am

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## 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. 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.**



***"Follow Me"***

## Prayer Candles

**Before Worship, you may pray and light a candle  
at the communion table.**

### **We Gather**

PRELUDE

*Vince DiMura*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**To behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in the Lord's temple.**

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

**Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

O Lord God of our salvation, we worship and adore you,  
**We will sing your praises forever and ever. Amen!**

~ posted on Lectionary Sermons Archive website.

Opening prayer

**Gracious Light-Bearer,**

**Into the shadows of our isolation  
you speak words of life and community.**

**Challenger of our lives,**

**you call us from places we call home  
to lead us more deeply into the world you love.**

**With your gentle, healing touch**

**you redeem the broken places of our lives**

**and you heal the wounded places of the earth.**

**We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

O Lord,

forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

**Through your Spirit**

**we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.**

Forgive us when we are shackled

by our narrow understandings of discipleship

and our clouded sense of purpose.

**Through your Spirit**

**we are drawn into the illumination of your  
empowering love.**

Forgive us when we are frightened of the future  
or pull back from the demand of your calling.

Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence,  
to acknowledge your grace, to trust you.

**Through your Spirit we seek to know you better,  
to stand together as your disciples,**

**To be renewed and to renew our faith.**

Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.

**Touch us now with your Spirit.**

(Silence is kept.)

We offers these prayers in the name of Jesus the Christ,

**Amen**

posted on the **Community of Christ** website.

## Words of Assurance

God you are loving and patient, not tight fisted like us,  
your grace flows freely to all your creatures.

We praise you that our sins are forgiven,  
and that the future has again become an open door.

**Thanks be to you, God of grace and glory!**

**Through Christ Jesus our Savior.**

**Amen!**

~ written by Bruce Prewer,

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

**And also with you.**

(we invite you to offer a sign of peace and blessings)

\*Hymn #318 "In Christ There is No East or West"

## **We Reflect**

### Prayer of Illumination<sup>1</sup>

**Holy God, inspire our worship here this day,  
so that we may receive liberation in your word,  
and being filled to overflowing share your  
reconciling love throughout the earth. Amen**

Reading from the Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-18

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON

Rev. Deborah Paton

\*Hymn of Response #726 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

## **We Respond**

### Prayers of God's People

Lord, in your mercy/in thanksgiving, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us continue saying together the prayer our Savior taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory, forever, Amen.**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Offertory Invitation

*(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).*

*Musical Meditation*

*Vince DiMura*

*Hymn of Thanks #717 For the Life That You Have Given"*

Prayer of Dedication

**All that we are, O God,  
and all we are called to be,  
we bring to this special moment of offering & hope.  
may our gifts be used imaginatively for the  
well-being of all. Amen.**

## **We Are Sent**

\*Hymn # 729 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

\*Benediction

May God be our light, our hope, our all in all:

**Blessed be God, now and forever!**

May Christ be our home, our life, our joy:

**Blessed be God, now and forever!**

May the Spirit empower us to love and serve.

**Blessed be God, now and forever!**

~ posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive.

POSTLUDE

**\*Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

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