

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

It is in the deserted moments of our lives, when we realize how we have failed to love, to act, to be God's children, that Jesus comes, not only praying for us, but holding us, mending us, sending us forth as new people. Let us come to our God, speaking of those things we would rather forget, so we may once again hear the words of healing and hope. Let us pray:

To you, O God our Creator, we give up the burdens of this week trusting your love and mercy. We confess our unwillingness to see your gracious Spirit at work in our lives, and our failure to gratefully acknowledge your goodness to us. Sometimes we separate ourselves from neighbors and friends, we turn away from those in need, and we ignore the voices of peoples long silenced. To you, O God our Redeemer, we surrender ourselves, asking your forgiveness, and trusting our Risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Silent Prayer

No matter how many times it is said, it bears repeating: God loves us, God forgives us, God heals us and restores us to new life.

This is Good News! God hears us, fills us with grace, and sends us forth to proclaim the gospel to others. Thanks be to God. Amen.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS / SPECIAL MUSIC: O God of Earth and Altar – James Mansfield
Jesus compels us to join him in service to others. Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus' Way using the resources we share. Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

(you may use the Zoom "chat" feature, or wave to be called on to share your prayers.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee?" (Glory to God #835) *(mute and sing)*

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Through this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares?

Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

When my feeble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;

Guide me gently, safely o'er To Thy shore, dear Lord, to Thy shore. *Refrain*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Living God

- Edward Broughton

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The people of Grace Presbyterian Church gather to seek and to worship God, and disperse, sharing and celebrating through love and service, the grace of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>3/21</u>	<u>9:30 am ZOOM</u>
<u>Worship</u>	<u>3/21</u>	<u>11:00 am ZOOM</u>
<u>Celebration! Handbell Choir Rehearsal</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>7:00 pm Sanctuary</u>
<u><i>Bulletin Information Due</i> 3/23</u>		
<u>Soul Sisters</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>2:00 pm</u>
<u>Youth Fellowship</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>6:00 pm Fellowship Hall</u>
<u>Re-Grouping Group</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>7:00 pm ZOOM</u>
<u>Session Meeting</u>	<u>3/25</u>	<u>7:00 pm ZOOM</u>
<u>NO Sunday School 3/28</u>		
<u>Worship</u>	<u>3/28</u>	<u>11:00 am ZOOM</u>

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to you as you worship with us today! You honor us by your presence and we give thanks for you. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to make your church home with us. For more information about uniting with this church, please contact Pastor Cheryl Homsher through the church office (684-6542) or Assisting Elder, Ralph Truskowski.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the few special collections we offer every year. The money raised through this special collection goes to three endeavors in approximately equal proportions—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Self-Development of People (SDOP). During the month of March, we will be focusing on several areas where Grace is involved in the Self Development of People. All of this will lead up to our contribution Sunday on or around Easter Sunday. Please be in prayer as you contemplate how much you wish to donate to this ministry.

BLESSING BOX

Our parking lot Blessing Box is being well-used by neighbors in need of food. Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to the church - or put them directly in the blessing box: canned meat, canned vegetables/fruit, juices, crackers, peanut butter, dried fruits, ramen noodles, granola bars, instant oatmeal, cereal, canned pasta sauce, canned pasta, toiletries...

LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 28 – Palm Sunday. Worship at 11:00 am by Zoom.

Come by the church anytime and put palms on the outdoor cross.

April 1 – Maundy Thursday. By Zoom. 6:30 – bring your meal and we will eat and fellowship over Zoom. 7:00 Worship with the Lord's Supper

April 2 – Good Friday. By Zoom. 7:00 Worship

April 4 – Easter. 7:30 am Parking Lot Easter Sunrise Service with The Lord's Supper.