

# *Grace* Presbyterian Church

November 3, 2024

9:30 am

*Celebrating All Saints Day*

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## Welcome 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.**



## **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 (Psalm 146)

Come! Sing praise to God!

**We will praise God as long as we live!**

Blessed are those  
who have the God of Israel as their helper,  
whose hope is in the Most High –  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them.

Come! Sing praise to God!

**We will praise God as long as we live!**

God keeps every promise forever.  
God gives justice to the oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.

Come! Sing praise to God!

**We will praise God as long as we live!**

God frees the prisoners,  
opens the eyes of the blind,  
and lifts the burdens of those bowed down.

God watches over the refugee,  
and upholds the orphan and widow.

Come! Sing praise to God!

**We will praise God as long as we live!**

Our God loves those who do right,  
but deliberately thwarts those who do evil.

Come! Sing praise to God!

**We will praise God as long as we live!**

\*Hymn #612 "We Praise You, O God"

Stewardship: Our Mission Statement in Action

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,**

**we take this time today to come before you,  
but as we do, we are aware that all is not right  
within us.**

**We neglect your word,  
we fail to meditate on your law,  
we forget to speak with you,  
we make plans without turning to you,  
we do things that we know are wrong.**

**We did not put you first in our lives.**

**Forgive how we have failed to love you  
with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our  
strength.**

**Loving God,**

**our relationships with each other are not all that**

**they can be or should be.**

**There is hurt and injury between ourselves and others.**

**There are walls of anger and hatred between us and our neighbors.**

**Forgive us for how we deny our part in this and for how we blame others for the brokenness around us.**

**Forgive how we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Gracious God,**

**we believe that you offer to us and our world a whole and good life.**

**For all that we have done to deny this life to each other and to ourselves,**

**we ask your forgiveness and your mercy. Amen**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### Declaration of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

as you choose again this day to love God

and to love one another

know that God has forgiven you that which is past

and offers you a new and full life.

**Praise be to the name of God, now forever. Amen.**

~ from the website of the Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church , Richmond, VA  
<http://www.tuckahoepres.org/>

Hymn #449 Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love"

(please remain seated and sing vs. 1)

## **We Reflect**

Prayer for Understanding

**God of extravagant grace,  
may your Spirit refresh our hearts  
through the reading of the scriptures  
that we may perceive all the good we can do  
and so grow in our faith. Amen.**

Reading from the Story of Ruth 1:6-18

Time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from The Gospel of Mark 12:28-34

SERMON "It is that easy, it is that hard."

\*Hymn #754 "Help Us to Accept Each Other"

## **We Respond**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Offertory Invitation

*Musical Meditation*

Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God, who made us who we are,  
we offer all of ourselves to You.  
Take our talents, our energy and our joy,  
and use us to share Your love.  
Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain,  
and use us to bring Your healing.**

**Magnify the gifts we offer before You today,  
to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.**

(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).

Sharing of Joys and concerns

Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Hymn #525 Let Us Break Bread Together

Prayer after communion

## **We Are Sent**

Remembering the Saints

We remember the great ancestors of our faith,  
from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:  
Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests,  
famous and nameless, neighbor and stranger,  
Who challenge us to seek peace and do justice.  
Ministers and teachers who have taught us your way:  
Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents,  
aunts and uncles, friends and love ones

those who have gone before us in our lifetime:  
Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren,  
siblings and spouses, parents and guardians  
whose lives ended too soon:  
Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have  
lost, knowing that they have found peace with you.

(Sharing the names of saints in our lives)

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God,  
and lift up many more names in our hearts.

Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you.  
We know you are with us in the spirit of worship,  
and you will not be forgotten.

We give thanks, O God,  
for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life.  
We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of  
new life in Christ,  
and know that in our grief and celebration, O God,  
You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone.  
In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever,  
Amen.

— Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution website.

\*Hymn #326 "For All the Saints"

\*Charge and Benediction

Hear this: the Lord our God is the one and only Lord.  
Therefore go out into the world  
and love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,  
and love others as you love yourself.

And may God give you justice and freedom;  
May Christ Jesus set you free for love;  
and may the Holy Spirit go where you go  
and protect you on your way.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Amen.**

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\*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.**

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