

CHURCH STAFF

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SESSION

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Jean Markham

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
John Gordon	Paula Bishop	Kevin Bopp
Sara Lawson	Bob Harrold	Ruth Ellen Cox
Jean Markham	John Price	Emily Mayne

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Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Sanctus Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 478 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven Lauda Anima

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, the truth, and the life: Form the minds of your faithful people into a single will, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, and so share the risen life of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

An Affirmation of Faith for Easter Heidelberg Catechism, 1562

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Unison: **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,

who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins

and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;

that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven

not a hair can fall from my head.

Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome and Announcements

The children may bring their “ringing collection” and come to the Baptismal Font for a Time for Young Christians

First Lesson Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 Unison

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me quickly.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

for your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Anthem In Thee, O Lord F.J. Haydn (1732-1809)

In Thee, O Lord, have I put my trust. Bow down Thine ear unto me; make haste to deliver me. Be Thou also my guide, O Lord. Draw me out of the net the wicked have thrown to ensnare me for Thou art my God. Into Thine hands I commend my spirit, for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, Thou God of truth. (– Psalm 31:1a,2a,4-5; arrangement by Benjamin Suchoff, 1969)

Epistle 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel John 14:1-14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 485 To God Be the Glory To God Be the Glory

The congregation sits.

Sermon Many Rooms, Quite a View Mike Krech

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” John 14:2a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 527 Near to the Heart of God McAfee

Apostles’ Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria for Easter Season Refrain of Hymn 122 Judas Maccabeus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.

Endless is the victory Thou o’er death hast won.

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Jesus Loves Me arr. Fred Bock (1939-1998)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology for Easter Season (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Benediction

Recessional Hymn 417 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation Regent Square

Postlude Come, Christians, Join to Sing arr. Don Hustad (1918-2013)

Today is the fifth Sunday of the season of Easter, which extends through the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day through Pentecost (April 16 – June 4, 2017). We celebrate this joyful season of the resurrection victory in worship through the hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been common to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is reading the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the risen Christ. In these final Sundays of Easter, the Gospel readings shift back to Jesus’ words to the disciples in the Upper Room. As Easter season moves toward the Ascension of Christ into heaven, Jesus’ words to the disciples about his departure and the promises of the coming Holy Spirit, of Christ’s intercession for us, and of eternal life with God, are fitting subjects for our worship. (JMK)