

CHURCH STAFF

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SESSION

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez

Class of 2018

Paula Bishop
Bob Harrold
John Price

Class of 2019

Kevin Bopp
Ruth Ellen Cox
Emily Mayne

Class of 2020

Rosemary Gordon
Brooks Keiser
Elizabeth Velazquez

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Please consider Grace Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.



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.

September 16, 2018

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in D Minor J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Processional Hymn 488 The God of Abraham Praise Leoni

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

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**.)

God of mercy: Help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We have not done justice, loved kindness or walked humbly with you, our God.
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.**

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit....**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 92 Beneath the Cross of Jesus St. Christopher

Pastor: The peace of 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 with Young Christians

Old Testament

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19:1-4b,7-14

Unison

The heavens are telling the glory of God,

and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

Yet their sound is gone out through all the earth,

and their words to the end of the world.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant from the insolent;

do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem

The Heavens Proclaim Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

The heav’ns proclaim the Lord of Life; the heights show forth God’s majesty. Each day awakes to the rising sun; each night unfolds from night to night. No word is heard, yet their voices ring through the earth. From morning dawn to setting sun, praise God, Creator, Mighty One. God made the earth and heav’n above and rules o’er all in might and love. God rules in love.

(--Psalm 19:1,4; arr. Hal H. Hopson, 2002)

Epistle

James 3:1-12

Gospel

Mark 8:27-38

Sermon

Cross Bearing

Mike Krech

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Mark 8:34b

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

Apostles’ Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

Choral

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Recessional Hymn 371

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

Postlude

Improvisation on Lift High the Cross

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We are in the season of Sundays after Trinity Sunday, also called Ordinary Time.

Our Gospel readings from now until Advent begins on December 2 come mostly from Mark.

The Old Testament readings are from the Wisdom literature, traditionally attributed to King Solomon.

The Epistle readings are from the Letter of James and later the Letter to the Hebrews.

The liturgical color is green, emblematic of the growth in faith these lessons want us to achieve.

(JMK)