

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Director of Music:	Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM, chicks@grace-pres.org
Director of Technical Services:	Bob Vawter, bvawter@bellsouth.net
Director of Children & Youth Ministry	Cristaldawn Smith, revmiss2002@yahoo.com
Nursery Attendants	Kathe Walker & Judy Thigpun
Financial Administrator/Admin Asst	Betsy Lewis, blewis@grace-pres.org
Sexton	Scott Hunter
Director of Grace Pres. Child Care	Andrea Nichols, childcare@grace-pres.org

SESSION

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Paula Bishop	Kevin Bopp	Rosemary Gordon
Bob Harrold	Ruth Ellen Cox	Brooks Keiser
John Price	Emily Mayne	Elizabeth Velazquez

Grace Presbyterian Church

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-3241

www.grace-pres.org

www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett

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.

December 16, 2018

The Third Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

based on the tunes Adeste Fideles and W Zlobie Lezy arr. Arnold B. Sherman
Grace Notes Hand Bell Choir

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 7 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth Mit Freuden Zart

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**.)
Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you; now prepare the world
for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your
children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; 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.

Lighting the Third Candle in the Advent Wreath

Michelle Clifford and Anna Tate

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, choir and congregation stand to sing:

O come, Thou Key of *Da*-vid, come, And open wide our *heav'n*-ly home;

Make safe the way that *leads* on high, And close the path to *mis*-ery.

Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O *Is*-rael.

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 bring their ringing collection and come to the Chrismon Tree for a
Time for Young Christians
Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 146:5-10

Unison

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

**The Lord watches over the strangers;
The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,**

But the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever;
your God, O Zion, in all generations. Praise the Lord.**

Anthem Amid the Cold of Winter arr. Bret Rhoades, 2004

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long time ago.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. Yes, what can I give him? I would give my heart.

(-- In the Bleak Midwinter text by Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; music by Gustav Holst, 1906;

Lo, How a Rose text – German carol, 15th century; music from *Alte Catholische Geistliche*

Kirchengesang, 1599, arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609)

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 10 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

The congregation sits.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon

When a Wintry Christian Rejoices

Mike Krech

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.”

Philippians 4:4-5

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 12

People Look East

Besancon

Apostles' Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis

Refrain of Hymn 23

Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Recessional Hymn 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel

Postlude Prepare the Way, O Zion G. Winston Cassler (1906-1990)

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we continue the season of **Advent**, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Some signs of the season in the sanctuary and in worship include: the **purple** paraments, purple being the color of preparation and royalty; the **Advent wreath**, with four candles marking the four Sundays of the season; the **Chrismon tree**, decorated with Christ Monograms, symbols of Christ, his birth and his rule; the singing of a stanza of **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**, following the advent wreath candle lighting service; and singing the **Gloria in Excelsis** from the refrain of the familiar Hymn 23, Angels We Have Heard on High.

Today we light the **rose colored candle**. This tradition is associated with the third Sunday in Advent, also called **Gaudete Sunday**, from the Latin (Gaudete = Rejoice) translation of today's epistle reading. These verses from Philippians 4 were historically sung as the introit on the third Sunday in Advent, and represented a note of joy in the midst of the otherwise solemn Advent season disciplines. (JMK)