

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2020

Rosemary Gordon
Brooks Keiser
Elizabeth Velazquez

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke
Anna Tate
Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp
Bob Gammon
Emily Mayne

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Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

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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

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

(Today's worship is online only)

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Great Redeemer, We Adore Thee (Redentore)

by Paolo Conte, arr. A.L. Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 455 (st.1-4) All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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**.)

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain
your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus 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, 1563

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 17:16-34

Psalm 66:8-11,12b-14,16-20

Unison

**Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

We went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings.

I will pay you my vows,

the vows I promised when I was in trouble.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what God has done for me.

I cried aloud to God, and I sang God's praise with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened and given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God who has not rejected my prayer

nor removed his steadfast love from me.

The congregation stands to sing the

Hymn 267

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Royal Oak

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel

John 14:15-21

Sermon

The Marketplace of Ideas

Mike Krech

“For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

Acts 17:23

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 108

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

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, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

(Hymn Tune: Quebec, by Henry Baker, 1854; arr. Emma Lou Diemer)

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

Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

Postlude

Sing Praise to God (Mit Freuden Zart)

arr. D Paxton

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. Today is the sixth Sunday of Easter.

We celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, including Ascension Day, this coming Thursday, May 21, and culminating with Pentecost on May 31.

In John 14, Jesus prepares the disciples for his departure in the crucifixion. The same preparation for departure is timely now on the eve of the Ascension, when Jesus will once again depart from the believers into heaven.

In Acts 17 Paul proclaims Jesus and the resurrection to the Athenians, few of whom believe.

In 1 Peter 3 Christians are urged to suffer when necessary because Jesus died for us and preached to the spirits in prison.

Another theme today through the hymns is the beauty and wonder of God's creation, traditionally observed as Rogation Days, days of prayer for a successful planting of crops on the three days before Ascension Day. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest us both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day Unfoldest blessings on your way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Text: Francis of Assisi, 1225; Trans. and para. William Henry Draper, c. 1910, alt.
Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen; *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623; alt.;
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. Repeat refrain.

The purple headed mountain, The river running by,
The sunset and the morning That brightens up the sky. Repeat refrain.

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. Repeat refrain.

God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. Repeat refrain.

(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848;
Tune: Royal Oak; English melody, 17th century, Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915;
Harmonized for *The Hymnbook*, 1953.)

Christ Is Alive

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, And touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, And lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive and comes to bring Good news to this and every age
Till earth and sky and ocean ring With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

(Text: Brian Wren 1968, rev.;

Tune: Truro; Thomas Williams, 1789, Harm. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.

Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light. Repeat refrain.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight. Repeat refrain.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild. Repeat refrain.

For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love. Repeat refrain.

(Text: Foliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864;

Tune: Dix; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906)