

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

Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
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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	Jill Bailey, childcare@grace-pres.org

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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.

November 8, 2020

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Doug Talley

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Lyons

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**.)

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

whose face is hidden from us by our sins,

and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:

Cleanse us from all our offenses,

and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,

that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,

confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,

and finding in you our refuge and strength;

through Jesus Christ your Son. ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine Assurance

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, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Congregational Meeting

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

Unison

**Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known that our ancestors have told us.**

**We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.**

**He established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.**

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 527 Near to the Heart of God McAfee

The congregation sits.

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Greeting the Bridegroom Mike Krech

“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’”
Matthew 25:6

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 17 “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Wachtet Auf

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 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” Gordon Young

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies Materna

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude “The Lord Reigns!” Gerald Peterson

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We are moving toward the close of the church’s liturgical year. The new church year begins on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. The Gospel themes for these final three Sundays of the current church year come from Matthew, chapter 25. Here Jesus gives three parables about preparedness and accountability: the story of the wise and foolish maidens, of different talents given to different servants, and of the judgment which separates the sheep from the goats on the basis of how each ministered to those in need. These accounts point to the promised reign of Christ, which now we hold by faith and hope. Hope in Christ is also central to our epistle reading today, in which Paul assures the Thessalonians that the death of loved ones in no way cancels the promise of resurrection or of Christ’s return. We also today take note of the coming Veterans Day holiday this week. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

Text: Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

Tune: LYONS; Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); alt.

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long. (Repeat)
Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
(Refrain)

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873;

Tune: ASSURANCE; Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

Near to the Heart of God

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

O Jesus, blessed Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, Near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet, Near to the heart of God (Refrain)

There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heard of God (Refrain)

Text: Cleland Boyd McAfee, 1901; Tune: MCAFEE; Cleland Boyd McAfee, 1901

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us; The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, Their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia.

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, That you the wedding feast may share.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
She wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious In strength of grace, in truth victorious:
Her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord, God’s Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia.

We follow all and heed Your call To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore You; Let saints and angels sing before You,
As harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals: Through them we stream to join the immortals
As we with joy Your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such delight: Alleluia

Therefore we sing to greet our King; Forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Tune: WACHET AUF; attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. J.S. Bach, 1731

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain.
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities glean, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

Text: Katherine Lee Bates, 1893;

Tune: MATERNA; Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882