

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.

December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns arr. Stephen DeCesare
Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 11 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

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**.)
Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.
Grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will that we also may
prepare the way for Christ, who is coming in power and glory to establish his kingdom
of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Third Candle in the Advent Wreath

Colins Eno and Awaiving Itambi

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all 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 Israel.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Bob Gammon

Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm 126

Unison

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy carrying their sheaves.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 14 Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

Sermon

Good News and Bad News

Mike Krech

“Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”
John 1:22-23

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 10 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Winchester New

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 Trio on Bring a Touch, Jeanette, Isabella David Hegarty

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 12

People, Look East

Besancon

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

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas (Noel Nouvelet)

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

In today’s Gospel reading John the Baptizer insists that he is not the Messiah, but a voice in the wilderness, crying out, “Make straight the way of the Lord.”

In the Epistle lesson, Paul concludes the first letter to Thessalonica by urging believers to be patient, prayerful, and joyful as they await the Lord’s return. This note of joy in the epistle reading is why we light the pink or rose candle today, as the third Sunday in Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin for “rejoice.”

Isaiah 61, today’s Old Testament, also has notes of joy as the people of Judah are released from their captivity in Babylon in the 530’s B.C. Returning home to Jerusalem, they will “repair the ruined cities,” rejoice in the Lord, and be “clothed in the garments of salvation.”

Psalm 126 shares the themes of Isaiah 61 in the “restored fortunes of Zion.”

“Zion” was originally the name of the hill captured by David (2 Samuel 5:7).

The name Zion was later also given to the hill upon which Solomon built the Jerusalem temple, and by extension “Zion” comes to stand for Jerusalem itself. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You a-right?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord, most holy, A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all loves excelling Our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new.
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; Trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863; alt.
Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN; Melchior Teschner, 1614;
Harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

From the Godhead forth You came, And return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell, High the song of triumph swell!

You, the chosen Holy One, Have o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Your kingdom be; When shall we its glories see?

Brightly does Your manger shine, Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'er-cloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th century; Para. Martin Luther, 1524;
Trans. William Morton Reynolds, 1850;
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND; Based on plainsong melody
Eyr Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524; As in *Songs of Syon*, 1910

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let Your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736; Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW; *Musickalishches Handbuch*, 1690;
Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

People, Look East

People, look east, The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrow, be glad, Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, thought you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928; As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964;
Tune: BESANCON; French folk melody; Harm. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)