

# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke  
Anna Tate  
Janet Vawter

### Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp  
Bob Gammon  
Emily Mayne

### Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon  
Sharon Ragghianti  
Becky Stirling

Moderator: John Michael Krech  
Clerk: Becky Stirling  
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Director of Music	Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM, charlotteschurch@gmail.com
Organist	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
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

### Grace Presbyterian Church

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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.

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

### Prelude

Prelude in C

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

### Hymn 118

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire

### Easter Greeting

**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, form the minds of your people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 safely greet one another with the peace of Christ and then sit for the announcements.)

## Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

#### Psalm 22:25-31

Unison

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him indeed shall who sleep in the earth bow down.  
Before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust.  
And I shall live for him.

Posterity shall serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

### Musical Meditation

How Great Thou Art (Tune: O Store Gud)  
Swedish folk song; arr. Arthur Frackenpohl, 2007  
Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

### Gospel

John 15:1-8

The congregation stands to sing

#### Hymn 418 God Bless Your Church with Strength! Diademata

This hymn text at 418 is sung to the suggested alternate tune Diademata,  
best known as the tune to Crown Him with Many Crowns

The congregation sits.

### Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

### Sermon

God Is Love, Seriously

Mike Krech

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ... There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, ... whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.”

1 John 4:16b,18a,c

The congregation stands to sing

#### Hymn 385 O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face Song 1

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 I Am the Vine Knowles Shaw, 1877

“I am the vine and ye are the branches,” bear precious fruit for Jesus today; branches in Him no fruit ever bearing, Jesus hath said, “He taketh away.” *I am the vine and ye are the branches; I am the vine, be faithful and true; Ask what ye will, your prayer shall be granted; The Father loved Me, So I have loved you.*”

Now ye are clean through words I have spoken, Living in Me, much fruit ye shall bear; Dwelling in you, my promise unbroken, glory in heav'n with Me ye shall share. Yes, by your fruits the world is to know you, walking in love as children of day; follow your Guide, He passeth before you, leading to realms of glorious day.

Sung by Bob Vawter

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 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrydol

The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,  
or you may depart the sanctuary quickly and quietly now if you need to.

Postlude On the tune Lancashire Henry Smart, c. 1835; arr. David H. Lowe

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the fifth Sunday of the season of Easter, which extends through the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost (April 4 – May 23, 2021). This joyful season of resurrection victory is celebrated in worship through our hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been common to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the Risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is reading the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the Risen Christ.

(JMK)

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **The Day of Resurrection**

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over With hymns of victory.  
Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light;  
And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.  
Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth the song begin.  
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that hath no end.

Text: John of Damascus, c.675-749; Trans. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.;  
Tune: LANCASHIRE; Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

### **God Bless Your Church with Strength!**

God bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,  
Upbuild Your servants as we work In common ministry.  
Urge us from fledgling faith To venture and to soar  
Through open skies to sing the praise Of Christ whom we adore.  
God, bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,  
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, Abundantly alive.  
From You, one holy vine, In freedom may we grow;  
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.  
God, bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,  
May we in chaos shine to light A pathway through life's maze.  
May justice be our aim, And kindness ours to share,  
In humbleness O may we walk, Assured our God is there!

Text: John A. Dalles, 1984; Tune: DIADEMATA, George Job Elvey, 1868

## **O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face**

O God, we bear the imprint of Your face:  
The colors of our skin are Your design,  
And what we have of beauty in our race  
As man or woman, You alone define,  
Who stretched a living fabric on our frame And gave to each a language and a name.  
Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate  
Because our race, our skin is not the same  
While we are judged unequal by the state  
And victims made because we own our name,  
Humanity reduced to little worth, Dishonored is Your living face on earth.

O God, we share the image of Your Son  
Whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin,  
In His humanity we find our own,  
And in His family our proper kin:  
Christ is the brother we still crucify, His love the language we must learn, or die.

Text: Shirley Elena Murray, 1987;

Tune: SONG 1; Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625);

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, as in *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down.  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast.  
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747; Tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831