

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

May 9, 2021

Sixth 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

Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord Tune: Clonmel
Irish tune; arr. by Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 455

All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our 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, 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 10:44-48

Psalm 98

Unison

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

He has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;

let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,

for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Musical Meditation Blessed Be the Name/O for a Thousand Tongues

arr. Stan Bethel, 1998

Bob Vawter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

Epistle

1 John 5:1-6

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 293 This Is My Father's World

Terra Beata

The congregation sits.

Gospel

John 15:9-17

Sermon

Love's Commands

Mike Krech

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 358

Help Us Accept Each Other

Baronita

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

Love One Another/O the Great, Great Love of Jesus

Tune: Ebenezer; Welsh. Thomas John Williams

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

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

To God Be the Glory (Doane)

arr. Don Hustad

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the sixth 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. Today's hymns reflect another theme for the sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Days, the three weekdays prior to Ascension Day, which were given to prayer for a fruitful season of planting and harvest. Three of our hymns today celebrate God's creation of and care for the world.

(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!

And everyone of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and cast on God your care!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
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

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.

Text: Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1901;

Tune: TERRA BEATA;

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915; Harm. 1953 for *The Hymnbook*; alt. 1988

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;
Teach us, as sister, brother, Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted And meant to love and live.
Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons As in our daily life
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them Or as they may become.
Let Your acceptance change us, So that we may be moved
In living situations To do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance Until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness And laughter's healing art.
Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, New hands for holding on;
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1975; Tune: BARONITA; Doreen Porter, 1975

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: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838;

Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906