

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke

Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp

Bob Gammon

Emily Mayne

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Becky Stirling

Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon

Sharon Ragghianti

Becky Stirling

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

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Director of Children & Youth Ministry

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Nursery Attendants

Kathe Walker & Judy Thigpun

Financial Administrator/Admin Asst.

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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.

September 26, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him Tune: Hyfrydol

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

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**.)

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares, but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,

nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation

and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit....

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 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

Old Testament Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124 Unison

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let Israel now say –
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side

when our enemies attacked us,

then they would have swallowed us up alive

when their anger was kindled against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away;

the torrent would have gone over us.

Then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Musical Meditation

 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Tune: St. Denio, Welsh hymn tune; arr. Gary Lanier

Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 330 Deep in the Shadows of the Past Shepherds Pipes

The congregation sits.

Epistle

James 5:13-20

Sermon

Rescuing the Perishing

Mike Krech

“... whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:20

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 408 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life Germany

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 In dich hab ich gehoffet Herr (In You I Have Hoped, Lord)
Johann Christoph Bach, 1642-1703

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 467 How Great Thou Art O Store Gud

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

Postlude Sing Praise to God (Mit Freuden Zart) arr. David Paxton

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We continue the long season after Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, also called Ordinary Time, which culminates in Christ the King Sunday, November 21, the Sunday before the first Sunday in Advent. Our Gospel readings are from Mark.

The Old Testament lessons are Esther, Job, and Ruth.

The Epistle readings are from James, and later, Hebrews.

JMK

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

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. (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. (Refrain)

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

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

Text: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1864;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Deep in the shadows of the past, Far out from settled lands,
Some nomads traveled with their God Across the desert sands.
The dawn of hope for humankind Was glimpsed by them alone:
A promise calling them ahead, A future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods They met a mystery:
God with an uncompleted name, "I am what I will be;"
And by their tents, around their fires, In story and in law
They praised, remembered, handed on A past that promised more.

From Abraham to Nazareth The promise changed and grew,
While some, remembering the past, Recorded what they knew,
And some, in letters or laments, In prophecy and praise,
Recovered, held, and re-expressed New hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived, For leaders, long ago,
Who sifted, chose, and then preserved The Bible that we know,
Give thanks, and find its promise yet Our comfort, strength, and call,
The working model for our faith, Alive with hope for all.

Text: Brian Wren, 1973;

Tune: SHEPHERDS' PIPES; Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Where cross the crowded ways of life, Where sound the cries of race and clan,
Above the noise of selfish strife, We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, On shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed, We catch the vision of Thy tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness, From human grief and burdened toil,
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress, Thy heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water given for Thee Still holds the freshness of Thy grace;
Yet long these multitudes to see The sweet compassion of Thy face.

O Master, from the mountainside, Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again;

Till all the world shall learn Thy love, And follow where Thy feet have trod;
Till glorious from Thy heaven above Shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank Mason North, 1905, alt.;

Tune: GERMANY; attr. Ludwig van Beethoven; Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art! (Repeat)

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the bird sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (Refrain)

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; (Refrain)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill me heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

Text: Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885; English version: Stuart K. Hine, 1953;
Tune: O STORE GUD; Swedish folk melody; harm. Stuart K. Hine, 1949